

Church of the Brethren
in
Southern Illinois

Church of the Brethren

BACKGROUND

CONGREGATIONS

THE DISTRICT

BIOGRAPHIES

STATISTICS

Brethren Publishing House,

in Southern Illinois

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IN CO-OPERATION WITH THE

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Dedication

*To all those who have helped to establish
the Church of the Brethren in the District
of Southern Illinois and have helped to make
the history which we herein record.*

Introduction

If it is true that we cannot properly evaluate the present and cannot plan the future wisely unless we know our past, then the recording of history obviously needs no attempt at justification.

Granting the validity of the general assertion, we as a church do well to take time to consider "the rock from which we have been hewn." A number of the districts of the Church of the Brethren have published histories of the movements, congregations, institutions and personalities which have made those districts what they are. A number of others are giving thought to the production of district histories; others should do so. Already much valuable historical information, for the possession of which our church life would be the richer, has been lost, and consequently much that we would like to know will never be known.

It is then with gratification that we accept as another unit in the recorded history of the Church of the Brethren this account of one of the brotherhood's aggressive and progressive districts, Southern Illinois. Those persons authorized by the district to undertake this work of compiling and editing have labored lovingly and painstakingly for a period of years to discover the most significant facts about the past and to embody them in such form that Brethren of the present and the future may have them at hand for both enjoyment and profit. The scantiness of some of the needed records has complicated the search but has not deterred the searchers. It has doubtless caused some inaccuracies of statement also. But the historically minded among our

fellowship will understand the difficulties encountered and will welcome this volume for what its compilers intended it to be—a faithful attempt to throw light on the church's forward path by capturing relevant rays from the path over which it has already traveled.

Ora W. Garber

*Book Editor, Brethren Publishing House
Elgin, Illinois*

Preface

A short history of the congregations of the Southern District of Illinois, with the compiled minutes of the district, was published as authorized by the district meeting of 1907.

Interest in the history of the churches of Southern Illinois was revived in connection with the plans for the observance of the centennial of the organization of the first Church of the Brethren in the Northern District of Illinois in 1942. At the 1940 district meeting of Southern Illinois, John Heckman suggested that the District of Southern Illinois make a study of her early history and share any material that would be of interest to both districts. D. J. Blickenstaff and I. D. Heckman were appointed to gather information. The district meeting of 1942 decided that the historical committee should be continued, and Dow A. Ridgely was added to it. Questionnaires were sent to the churches in 1943, requesting historical information and data. Following the death of I. D. Heckman in 1943, John B. Wiewand was appointed by the board of administration to fill his unexpired term. At the district meeting of 1944 Ida Buckingham was elected a member of the committee.

In January 1948 the committee asked the undersigned to prepare the material for publication. To make the records more nearly complete, the summer of 1948 was spent reading the publications of the Brethren in the historical library at Elgin and classifying what was already collected. This material, together with data from an additional questionnaire, was edited and arranged in narrative form.

It is obviously impossible to give recognition to all who have had some part in supplying the information on which this history is based. Sincere thanks are extended to them. There have been, however, a number whose help has been quite extensive; in gratitude to them their names are listed: Charles Alley, Lenore Ames, L. M. Baldwin, Annie Blickenstaff, G. G. Canfield, S. E. Caster, Angeline Caylor, Bernice Childress, Mrs. H. P. Clannin, Mary Dooly, Lester Fike, I. J. Harshbarger, Eunice Heckman, John Heckman, W. T. Heckman, Adam Jellison, Meda Jellison, Clyde Lewis, Mrs. Clyde Lewis, Oma McCauley, J. W. Metzger, Anetta Mow, Leland Nelson, Laura Plunkett, Maranda Ridgely, Dolar Ritchey, Pearl Rohrer, J. E. Small, W. Harlan Smith, Mrs. S. J. Snell, George Snoke, Hannah Sollis, Ausby Swinger, Mrs. John Ulrey, Mrs. Irvin Van Dyke, Lyle Webb, R. C. Wenger, Mrs. M. A. Whisler, J. J. Winger, Fred Wolfe, and the late Jacob Wyne.

Appreciation is here expressed to Ora W. Garber, book editor of the Brethren Publishing House, for his helpful work on the manuscript.

Minnie S. Buckingham
Historical Editor
Oakley, Illinois

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Beginnings of the Church of the Brethren

The Church of the Brethren had its beginnings at Schwarzenau, Germany, in 1708. Long before that time the Reformation was far reaching in its effect, but it did not bring deepened religious piety to the masses of the people, as Luther had intended. Generally it meant that politically Germany was not subject to the Italian Pope and was free from heavy taxes to the Vatican. Late in the seventeenth century there arose, throughout Germany, a Pietistic movement, with emphasis on Bible study. Bibles were very scarce, probably not being owned by one in a thousand persons, although ministers used a small book containing Bible passages and had a hymnal. The Pietistic movement resulted in an increase of deepened piety. The Pietists found the services of the established churches cold and ritualistic; they stayed away from them, and consequently were persecuted.

Freedom from religious persecution was found in the province of Wittgenstein, under the protection of Count Henry, where many took refuge. They called one another brothers.

Of these people, a group of eight earnest seekers decided to discard all previous opinions and to follow whatever truth they could find through prayerful study of the New Testament.

They became convinced of the necessity of obedience in faith, and that baptism by trine immersion was the necessary door into the Christian fellowship for which they longed. They desired such baptism at the hands of Alexan-

der Mack, their leader; but he refused on the grounds that he himself had not been baptized in that manner.

Alexander Mack, Jr., has given the following account of the first baptism by the Brethren:

Being thus prepared, the Eight went out together one morning, in solitude, to a stream called Eder, and the brother, who desired to be baptized by the church of Christ, and when he was baptized, he baptized him, by whom he had been baptized, and the remaining three brothers and three sisters. Thus these Eight were all baptized at an early hour of the morning.¹

The same story is related by Friedrich Nieper, a modern German historian.

One morning, just as the sun rose, they went to the Eder River. Lot determined the brother who for the first time was to administer baptism in the flowing water. After that, the one [Alexander Mack] who was first baptized, administered the same rite to his baptizer, (literally, dipped him under and baptized him) and likewise the other three brethren and three sisters.²

D. W. Kurtz has written:

I have read several letters by one of them [daughters of Count Henry] to her father in which she describes minutely the daily life of these people, especially about the "Taufers" whose lives were full of "good works, of prayers and Bible study," and "much kindness and charity."³

The first principles with them were a living practical faith, repentance and baptism followed by the practice of peace, self-denial, and an implicit obedience to all the teachings and examples of Jesus. They continued their Bible study, told others of their beliefs and gained in numbers. So began the church later called German Baptist Brethren, now known as the Church of the Brethren.

Their quiet, peaceful life at Schwarzenau was disrupted by persecution and they took refuge in other communities; some fled to Westervain in Friesland and some went to Hol-

¹ Alexander Mack, Jr., in the introduction to *Rites and Ordinances and Ground Searching Questions*. Page 15

² Friedrich Nieper. *Die Ersten Deutschen Auswandern von Krefeld nach Pennsylvania*, 1940. Page 125

³ D. W. Kurtz. "Origin of the Church of the Brethren," *Brethren Family Almanac*, 1911. Page 21

land. In 1719 Peter Becker with twenty families sailed for America and settled near Germantown, Pennsylvania, where they established the first congregation of the Brethren in America. Owing to the promising outlook in America, most of those in Germany later joined the group in Pennsylvania. In 1729 thirty families, including that of Alexander Mack, chartered the ship *Allen* at Rotterdam and sailed for America on July 7; they landed at Philadelphia on September 15. Locating in eastern Pennsylvania, they soon were widely scattered. Congregations grew up at Germantown, Conestoga, Skippack, and Oley in Pennsylvania and later spread throughout the United States.



THE EDER RIVER

Movements Among the Brethren in Southern Illinois

THE WESTWARD MOVEMENT

Well in the vanguard of the westward movement in American history, the Brethren pioneered into the Northwest Territory, using waterways as routes for transportation. George Wolfe is thought to have been one of the first elders to settle west of the Alleghanies; in 1787 he had moved from Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, to Fayette County, in the western part of that state. He and his sons built a flatboat and in April 1800 started down the Monongahela River, with Kentucky as their destination. Elder J. H. Moore has very interestingly told the story of such a boat trip in *Some Brethren Pathfinders*.

The Wolfe family settled near Muhlenberg, Kentucky, where there was already a settlement of Brethren people, who had come from North Carolina. It was from this place that the two sons of George Wolfe, Jacob and George, Jr., went north and in 1808 settled about forty miles north of Cairo, in what was later Union County, Illinois. Then a part of Indiana Territory, Illinois did not become a state until ten years later.

THE FAR WESTERN BRETHREN

The Northwest Territory seemed so far distant from the main center of Brethren activities in the eastern part of the country that the Brethren who had pioneered into that territory were sometimes called the Far Western Breth-

ren. To those who lived east of the Alleghanies, all who lived west of the mountains were thought of as Western Brethren. The term *Far Western Brethren* originated from a query in the minutes of the Annual Meeting of 1850, which mentioned them as a body of Brethren in the "Far West." It was then used merely to distinguish them from the Western Brethren, who maintained full union and fellowship with those in the East.

The Far Western Brethren were from ten churches: six in Kentucky, one in Cape Girardeau County, Missouri, and three in southern Illinois: the Union County church (organized in 1812), the Sugar Creek church in Sangamon County (1830), and the Mill Creek church in Adams County (1831). Among these churches were three strong leaders: George Wolfe of Adams County, Isham Gibson of Macoupin County, and D. B. Sturgis of Bond County.

It was difficult for the Far Western Brethren to keep in touch with the main body of the church in the East, on account of the great distances between them and the lack of good means of transportation and communication. With the passing of years some differences developed in the manner of observing communion services. The main points of difference were concerned with the order of proceedings in observance of the communion and with the mode of foot-washing. Although there was communication between the two groups, the issues caused serious concern for many years.

Before the Annual Meeting of 1856 a committee of elders met with the Mill Creek church in Adams County. They were so favorably impressed with the spirit and ability of Elder George Wolfe that they almost entirely lost the prejudice or unfavorable opinion which had existed; Elder Wolfe had thoroughly manifested a Christian spirit in humility and in ability to meet every point at issue. "Elder Samuel Lehman, a member of the committee, said that he

never before saw a man who could better manifest the spirit of Christ in his general deportment than did Elder George Wolfe."¹ The differences were amiably settled at the Annual Meeting of 1856, which was held at Lena, Illinois.

RELATED ORGANIZATIONS

Old German Baptist Brethren

There grew up within the church a group dissatisfied with what they termed innovations within it; such sentiment seemed strongest in the Miami Valley in Ohio. Some of the disturbing factors were high schools, revivals, Sunday schools and conventions, missionary boards, the paid ministry, musical instruments, and the single mode of foot-washing. These matters were a grievance to them for a period of years and several petitions were sent to Annual Meeting—the first in 1869. The petition sent in 1880 was re-sent in 1881 in the form of resolutions and became known as the Miami Platform. It was urged that these innovations be removed from the church. The Annual Meeting made some concessions but these were not satisfactory to the group, which called a meeting in 1881 and withdrew as a separate church organization. Resolutions of the 1881 meeting were circulated in various churches and those individuals who accepted them thereby became members of the Old German Baptist Brethren Church. A number of congregations in Southern Illinois were affected by this movement.

First Brethren—now Brethren

Some within the church favored more progressive action along some of the lines in which the Old Order group considered the church to be already far too progressive. This group, under the leadership of Elder H. R. Holsinger, withdrew from the church in 1882 and organized the First

¹ From an unpublished account written by John Heckman of Polo, Illinois

Brethren Church—now known as the Brethren Church.

Dunkard Brethren

The Dunkard Brethren represent a movement slightly affecting a few congregations in our district. Their fundamental beliefs are the same as those of the Church of the Brethren, but the Dunkard Brethren wish to hold more closely to the regulations of the fathers in matters of dress and the simple life. They do not have a separate publishing house. They are now almost extinct in our district.

Congregations

The first Brethren church in southern Illinois was established in Union County by George Wolfe and others from Kentucky. After working in Union County for twenty years with a number of other families, he moved to Adams County, where the Mill Creek congregation was organized. In the meantime, through the leadership of Isham Gibson, the Sugar Creek church began. About fifteen years later a church was established in Fulton County. Some time later Brethren from the East settled in Macon and Piatt counties. From each of these early churches groups of congregations grew. Through the tireless efforts of pioneer ministers preaching in adjoining territories, churches were established throughout southern Illinois.

In pioneer days the Brethren felt the need of a church in each community where they settled, as they could travel but a short distance with horses. The church was the social as well as the spiritual center of the community—everyone went to church. Often dinner was provided and a service followed in the afternoon.

With the country sparsely settled, the distance between the churches is indicated by some of the churches taking their names from the counties—as Union County, Cumberland County, Shelby County and Edgar County.

At first the churches were entirely rural, often taking their names from near-by rivers or creeks, showing the dependence of the early settlers upon a good water supply. There were Sugar Creek, Mill Creek, Hurricane Creek, Panther Creek, Bear Creek, Pigeon Creek, Otter Creek, Big

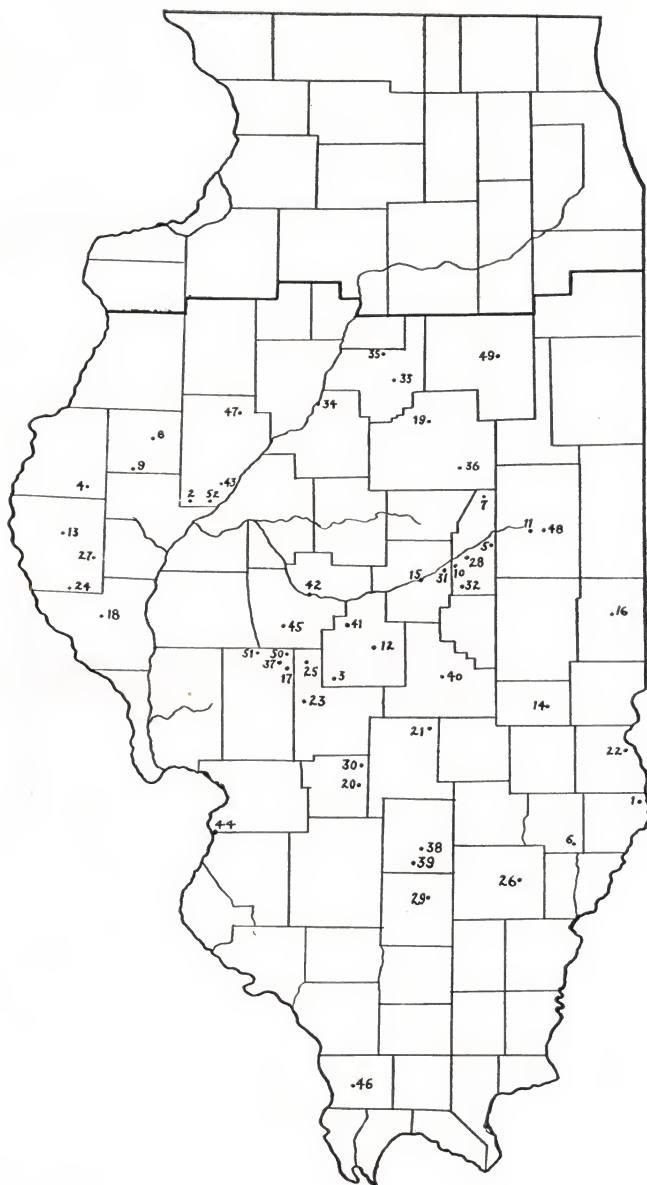
Creek, Macoupin Creek, Camp Creek, Clear Creek, Hadley Creek, Martins Creek, Pike Creek and Spring Run. Okaw, Vermillion and Kaskaskia were named from near-by rivers. Farming interests were reflected in the naming of Allison Prairie and La Motte Prairie.

When people began moving from the farms and retired in small towns, sometimes the church was also moved from the country to the towns; so often the disorganization of a church or the change of the church name meant that the church house had been moved: Coal Creek became Canton; Vermillion, Cornell; Pike Creek, Chenoa; Hadley Creek, Barry; and Pleasant Hill, Virden and Girard. With the de-

CHURCHES OF THE DISTRICT OF SOUTHERN ILLINOIS

(See the map on the opposite page.)

- | | |
|---------------------------------|--|
| 1. Allison Prairie | 28. Milmine |
| 2. Astoria | 29. Mount Vernon—Pleasant Grove |
| 3. Bear Creek, Christian County | 30. Mulberry Grove |
| 4. Bear Creek, Hancock County | 31. Oakley (Cerro Gordo, Macon County) |
| 5. Bement | 32. Okaw—La Place |
| 6. Big Creek—Walnut Grove | 33. Panther Creek |
| 7. Blue Ridge—Mansfield | 34. Peoria |
| 8. Bushnell | 35. Pigeon Creek—Oak Grove |
| 9. Camp Creek | 36. Pike Creek—Chenoa |
| 10. Cerro Gordo, Piatt County | 37. Pleasant Hill |
| 11. Champaign | 38. Romine |
| 12. Clear Creek | 39. Salem |
| 13. Concord | 40. Shelby County |
| 14. Cumberland County | 41. South Fork |
| 15. Decatur | 42. Springfield |
| 16. Edgar County | 43. Spring Run |
| 17. Girard | 44. St. Louis |
| 18. Hadley Creek | 45. Sugar Creek |
| 19. Hudson | 46. Union County |
| 20. Hurricane Creek | 47. Upper Fulton—Coal Creek—Canton |
| 21. Kaskaskia | 48. Urbana |
| 22. La Motte Prairie | 49. Vermillion—Cornell |
| 23. Litchfield | 50. Virden |
| 24. Loraine | 51. West Otter Creek |
| 25. Macoupin Creek | 52. Woodland |
| 26. Martins Creek | |
| 27. Mill Creek—Liberty | |



velopment of the country came better roads and later the use of the automobile, which resulted in the merging of some adjoining congregations.

The city churches were established some time later with the movement away from the farm, as young people went to the cities for employment: Decatur, Champaign, Springfield and Peoria.

The churches usually grew and prospered where there was adequate ministry and leadership. Financial prosperity, however, has not always resulted in deeper spirituality.

A history of each congregation follows, as complete as possible with the information that has been found.

UNION COUNTY (1812-1884)

Among the first white settlers in what is now Union County, Illinois, were Jacob and George Wolfe, Jr., who came there from Muhlenberg, Kentucky, in 1808. Their father, George Wolfe, Sr., who had lived in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, had moved with his family to Fayette County, Pennsylvania, in 1787. He is thought to have been the first Brethren elder to settle west of the Alleghanies. In 1880, when George, Jr., was twenty years old, the Wolfe family moved farther west; they came down the Ohio River on a flatboat which they had built, and settled in Muhlenberg County, Kentucky, where there were other Brethren families. It was from Muhlenberg that Jacob and George Wolfe, Jr., Adam Hunsaker and George Davis had migrated into what was later Union County, Illinois, in the year 1808.

At that time southern Illinois was a trackless forest, part of the Northwest Territory and of Indiana Territory, inhabited mostly by Indians. These men traveled some distance by boat, then explored the region and selected a

place to live. They built a log house, in which they spent the winter. The next spring they went back to Kentucky and brought their wives to this new territory. In 1803 George Wolfe, Jr., had married Ann Hunsaker; Adam Hunsaker's wife was George Wolfe's sister. Other families accompanied them and soon there was a thriving pioneer settlement near the present site of Jonesboro, Illinois, about forty miles north of Cairo, and around fifty miles east of the Cape Girardeau settlement on the Mississippi.

In 1809 George Wolfe, Sr., visited his sons in Illinois. While on this preaching tour in southern Illinois and eastern Missouri, he became sick near Kaskaskia. His son George went and cared for him, but he died and was buried there, some fifty miles north of where his sons had settled.

It is significant that an awakened interest in religion followed an earthquake in southern Illinois. Beginning about two o'clock in the morning of December 16, 1811, the central Mississippi Valley was violently disturbed by an earthquake of such severity that it was felt from Canada to New Orleans and even in Boston, eleven hundred miles away.

Early in December 1811 the *New Orleans*—the first steamboat to attempt a trip from the East to the gulf—was launched at Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Just as it reached the mouth of the Ohio it was impossible for the captain to bring the boat to anchor near the shore for the night, on account of the landslides caused by the earthquake. There they lay watching through the long night, listening to the roar of the waters and hearing from time to time the rushing earth slide from the banks and the commotion as the mass of land and trees was plunged into the river. In some places the earth opened and streams of water or sand rose to great heights; at one great upheaval the waters of the Mississippi seemed to run upstream, only to rush

back again. Islands disappeared; others came into being.

Coming to the Mississippi, the pilot of the *New Orleans* could not distinguish the channel, so greatly had the course of the river changed. Water flowed over part of the site of New Madrid and later the town was entirely submerged. This region and that of Little Prairie—now Caruthersville—were hard hit; the settlement of a hundred families at Little Prairie was broken up and that of Great Prairie practically destroyed. At New Madrid, on the Missouri side of the river, a large tract of land, with the timber on it, sank to a considerable depth, forming a lake sixty miles long and from three to twenty miles wide. Later, those sailing on this lake could see, far below, gigantic trees in great numbers as a submerged forest.¹

The shocks continued during December 16 and 17, and at short intervals until January 23, when there was another shock almost as intense and destructive as the first. After two weeks of quiet, on February 7 there were several alarming and destructive shocks which equaled or surpassed any former disturbance; for several days a constant tremor rocked the earth. Small shocks frequently occurred at intervals of a few days for fully a year afterwards.² So great and numerous were the disturbances that it was regarded as almost miraculous that the *New Orleans* continued down the Mississippi and reached Natchez.

The disturbance of the earthquake was followed by a

¹ J. H. Moore. *Some Brethren Pathfinders*. Page 63

² Myron L. Fuller. *The New Madrid Earthquake*. United States Department of the Interior, Geological Survey Bulletin No. 494 (1912)
Charles Joseph Latrobe. *The Rambler in North America*. London (1936). Volume 1, pages 107-108

G. C. Broadhead. *The American Geologist*. Volume 31 (1902)
Lloyds Steamboat Directory. Cincinnati (1856). Page 325
Timothy Flint. *Recollections of the Last Ten Years in the Valley of the Mississippi*. Boston (1926). Pages 222-228

Samuel Lathan Mitchell. *Transactions of the Literary and Philosophical Society*. New York (1815). Volume 1, pages 281-307

Sir Charles Lyell. *A Second Visit to the United States*. London (1849). Volume 2, pages 228-239

N. H. Heck. *Earthquake History of the United States*. United States Department of Commerce, Coast and Geodetic Survey Special Publication No. 149 (1928). Pages 37-41

religious awakening throughout that entire region. In the Wolfe community a Methodist minister held revival meetings and fourteen, mostly of Brethren parentage, applied for membership. They were accepted as inquirers and selected George Wolfe as their leader. Remembering the doctrines preached by his father, he was not satisfied with the Methodist teaching and suggested to the group that they send for a Brethren minister to baptize them. Hunsaker was sent to Kentucky on this mission. The second day on the trip he met Elder John Hendricks on his way to Union County. The settlers were surprised at his return after an absence of only a few days, as the trip ordinarily would have taken more than a week.

In Clear Water Creek, Elder Hendricks baptized George Wolfe and his entire group. These were the first to be baptized by the Brethren in Illinois. After holding several meetings, Elder Hendricks returned to Kentucky, but in a few months came back and organized the first Brethren church in Illinois, in 1812. John Hendricks was chosen elder-in-charge. He had intended to ordain George Wolfe soon, but died in the spring of 1813; so the ordination was in charge of Elder Adam Hostettler of Shelby County, Kentucky.¹

They soon had a well-organized church and built a meetinghouse; it was probably a large log building and was located on the road between Anna and Saratoga.² The first Brethren meetinghouse erected in the state, it was known as the old Dunkard church.

George Wolfe showed unusual ability in church leadership and was given charge of the church. He was self-educated through careful study, was forceful in the pulpit, and became the strongest preacher in all that region. For nineteen years he labored most earnestly in Union County.

¹ J. H. Moore. *Some Brethren Pathfinders*. Pages 70-71

² *Ibid.* Page 84

On one occasion he held a debate with a Catholic priest. The interest was so great that the governor of the state attended So complete was truth magnified on this occasion that the governor thought it well to send a detachment of soldiers to escort Brother Wolfe from the place, lest the opposition would harm him.¹

George Wolfe was interested and active in public affairs and "by taking the field against slavery helped to make the territory a free State. It is said that he did more than any other man in the State to keep slavery out of Illinois."²

In the year 1827 a number of Brethren moved from Union County to Adams County, Illinois. Among them were the Hunsakers and William Lierly. In 1831 George Wolfe with thirty others also moved near the site of the present town of Liberty, and in a few years half of the members of the Union County church had moved to Adams County. Of the next fifty years in the Union County church we know very little.

Adam Hock, in the *Brethren at Work*, March 13, 1879, wrote:

I have read of some in the *Brethren at Work* who were destitute of the bread of life but not so long as we were, for we did not get to hear the pure word preached for twelve years, till last summer, when a brother came down from the north and preached for us, and baptized three. Now there are nine of us, and no shepherd

In 1880 Elder John Metzger and John Wise made a visit to Union County and reported in the *Brethren at Work* of October 5: "In Union County we found twelve members; one added while we were there. Held a number of meetings."

John Wise from Mulberry Grove visited the church again in 1882. His account in the *Brethren at Work*, September 26, was:

I left home August 23rd for Union County, Illinois. Arrived at Makanda the 24th; commenced meeting the same evening. Had good congregations. On the 27th held a love feast with the few members. Thirteen members communed Brother D. Frantz of

¹ Miller and Royer. *Some Who Led*. Pages 32-33

² J. H. Moore. *The Boy and the Man*. Page 68

Cerro Gordo arrived just in time to enjoy the feast. Left Brother Frantz to continue meetings The little band of believers in Union County are alive and active.

The Union County church is last listed in the district meeting minutes of 1884.

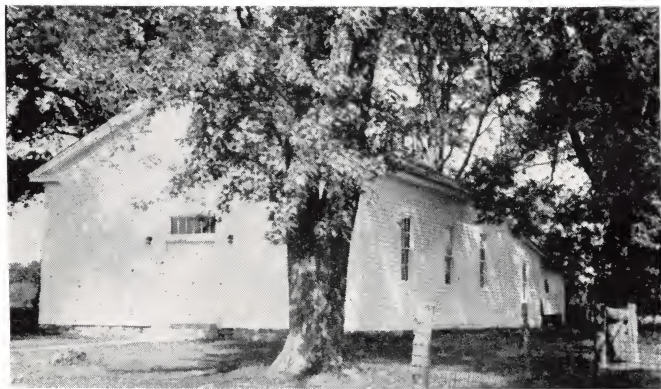
Union County is said to have received its name from an incident in which George Wolfe, Jr., figured. When a seal was designed for Union County, in which Wolfe first settled when he came to Illinois in 1808, his figure and that of a Baptist minister were made a part of it. The two men had held a union meeting and the design on the seal shows them shaking hands. "The seal illustrating this historic incident was designed and adopted in 1850, at the suggestion of Gov. Dougherty. The union meeting of these pioneer preachers was held about 1816 or 1817."¹

SUGAR CREEK (1830-1919)

Sugar Creek was the second church organized by the Brethren in the state of Illinois. The first services held by the Brethren in Sangamon County were conducted in 1828 by Elder George Wolfe of Union County. Before this time, a number of Brethren families had settled in Morgan and Sangamon counties. Among these were James Gibson and his wife, Rebecca Robinson Gibson, who had come from Wilson County, Tennessee; they were the parents of Isham Gibson. In 1828 Elders John Dick and Joseph Roland of Kentucky had settled in Sangamon County.

When Elder Roland was preaching in Kentucky, a young schoolteacher, Isham Gibson, rode forty miles to be baptized by him. Gibson was elected to the ministry when he was twenty, and at twenty-three was ordained an elder

¹ William H. Perrin, Editor. *History of Alexandria, Union and Pulaski Counties, Illinois*. Chicago: O. L. Baskin and Co. (1883). Page 286



OLD SUGAR CREEK CHURCH

by Joseph Roland. Soon afterwards, in about 1830, Elder Isham Gibson moved to Morgan County, Illinois, where the Sugar Creek church was organized on June 20, 1830, by Elders Isham Gibson, Joseph Roland and John Dick. Among the charter members of this congregation were the Gibsons, Vancils, Shutts, Gateses, Harmons, Searses, Thompsons and others.

Elder Roland died soon after the church was organized and Isham Gibson took most of the responsibility for the work, which was growing with increasing numbers of members moving there, mainly from Tennessee and Kentucky. Gibson also opened up work in Macoupin County and in 1846 he moved to Stirrup Grove on Otter Creek. Other members settled in that locality and the church name was changed from Sugar Creek to Otter Creek.

In this congregation several men were called to the ministry: D. B. Sturgis in 1833; C. C. Gibson in 1862; A. P. Gibson in 1859; Carroll Buch in 1860; D. R. C. Nead in 1862; and Daniel Vaniman in 1865.

In the year 1864, a meetinghouse was built south of

Stirrup Grove; but within a few years this house of worship became inadequate to accommodate the increasing membership, and in 1867 another church house was built three miles southwest of Virden and named Pleasant Hill.

Since the country was new, with the population widely scattered, Isham Gibson opened up work in Sangamon County. By 1870, the Otter Creek congregation had become so large that a division of territory was decided upon: the east part was called Bear Creek and the north part was called Sugar Creek, thus reviving the original name. The name, Otter Creek, was dropped.

This reorganization of the Sugar Creek church in 1870 took place on the grounds of the original Sugar Creek church, which had been organized in 1830. Just before 1870 a number of members had moved there from Pennsylvania and Virginia, which warranted the reorganization with seventeen members. Isaac Neff was the elder and David Kimmel the minister. On March 16, 1875, Javan Gibson and Daniel Vaniman were elected to the ministry.

F. H. Dove in the *Pilgrim* of June 28, 1874, gave a report of his visit to the West at the time when the Annual Meeting was held in this church.¹

For two weeks F. H. Dove held meetings in Macoupin and Montgomery counties. He preached at the Studebaker schoolhouse and in three churches in Girard: the Baptist, the Methodist and the Universalist. He also had meetings with the Brethren at West Otter Creek and at other places in that neighborhood and preached twice at the Cherry Grove schoolhouse. At that time, the ministers of the congregation were C. C. Gibson, D. R. C. Nead, J. W. Harshbarger and Jonathan Brubaker. By the year 1880 the membership numbered one hundred. A Sunday school was organized in 1888.

¹ For an account of the Annual Meeting of 1874 see page 147.

In the *Primitive Christian and Pilgrim*, June 26, 1877, Rachael Combs wrote that there were about twenty members in Cass County, mostly sisters living in three different neighborhoods, which were about nine or ten miles apart. They had no minister among them; occasionally they were visited by ministers who lived some fifty miles away, but all the meetings on one trip were held in one neighborhood and it was a long time before the entire circuit was completed and services were held in each of the three localities. T. A. Robinson was elected to the ministry at Ashland, Cass County, in 1880, but in 1887 he moved farther west into Kansas.

No records have been found of the organization of a church at Ashland, or of disorganization. Judging from an account in the *Gospel Messenger* of July 8, 1890, it was considered a part of the Sugar Creek church, which then numbered about sixty members, living scattered. Eight of the members lived somewhat isolated in Cass County, where meetings were held in a schoolhouse once a month. In September 1890 a series of meetings was held in the Circleville schoolhouse, seven miles north of Ashland, Cass County, by B. F. Masterson, who wrote of the meetings in the *Messenger* of October 15, 1890: ". . . sister Rachel Combs, of four score, walked several times to the place of meeting, a distance of one mile There is no organized church within forty miles of these members." Two were added to the church as a result of this meeting, making a total of five members then in Cass County.

Other preaching points of the Sugar Creek church were schoolhouses where meetings were held every two weeks. Social meetings were held in the homes on Sunday evenings, with a good interest.

In this congregation Isaac Gibble, B. F. Masterson and Frank Gibson were elected to the ministry. Elders of this

church were Isaac Neff, Jacob Waggoner, Isaac Gibble, M. J. McClure, Conrad Fitz, J. H. Brubaker, B. F. Filbrun, and Charles C. Gibson.

The members of the Sugar Creek church asked for disorganization, which was effected on October 29, 1919. The territory, church property and letters of membership were transferred to the Virden church.

MILL CREEK, now LIBERTY

(1831—)

The Mill Creek church was a child of the Union County church, as from that place a number of members moved to Adams County, Illinois, as early as 1827. A few years later they were joined by Elder George Wolfe, Jr., and his family, with about thirty relatives and friends. These Brethren settled in the country, not far from Liberty, in 1831. One of the first things that they did was to organize a church. In September of that year the deacons visited all the members and a church council was held. Finding all the members in love and union, they held a love feast on the fourth Saturday of September 1831 in the house of Brother John Weigle; Elder Wolfe was the only minister present. From that date to at least 1881, not a single year passed without one or more love feasts being held in the Mill Creek church.

At first they had no church building, but they met in homes, first in one and then in another. Sometime during the year 1831 a church building was erected in the timber near the present site of the Seigle schoolhouse, two miles west of Liberty. This was one of the first meetinghouses built by the Brethren in the state of Illinois.

The Mill Creek church grew and prospered and within a very few years had a membership of over two hundred. Two ministers were elected: William R. Lierly and John

McClintock. In 1850 they were both advanced to the second degree of the ministry. David Wolfe was elected as a minister in 1861 and three years later was ordained to the eldership by Elders Isham Gibson and John Fitz.

In the early 1870's the members of the Mill Creek congregation realized that they had outgrown the old meeting-house and they began planning for a new church home. As Liberty was a growing town and was centrally situated, it was considered a good place for a church. On June 14, 1874, the deed to an acre of land at the northeast corner of Liberty was given by Philip G. Corkins and his wife to the trustees of the German Baptist Brethren church at Liberty; on this land they built their new church house.

After the death of Elder George Wolfe, the church came under the care of his son, Elder David Wolfe, who served as elder until his death in 1879; then the church was placed under the supervision of Daniel Vaniman until 1881, when Elder H. W. Strickler was chosen elder-in-charge.

In 1875 the district meeting of Southern Illinois (then called "the annual council") was held in the Mill Creek church. A love feast was held immediately preceding the conference.

During the next few years the Mill Creek church grew until there were preaching appointments at six different places. Elder H. W. Strickler wrote in the *Brethren at Work* of September 28, 1880:

We are scattered over a large part of four counties: Pike, Brown, Hancock, and Adams; the last named is the central point. This arm of the church is known as the Mill Creek church and numbers about one hundred fifty members, and is sub-divided into four parts: Barry, Liberty, Concord, and Loraine Owing to many places of meeting there were four councils appointed, making travel of at least sixty miles the shortest possible route to reach all of them.

In February of the year previous (1879) Brother Daniel Vaniman, one of the evangelists of the Southern District of Illinois, had visited all of these places and also another

preaching appointment at Camp Point, which was about eighteen miles from the home of Elder H. W. Strickler. In 1882 Jacob Coppock wrote in the November 7 issue of the *Brethren at Work* that Brother J. Ebersole was through the valley, attending a number of love feasts and preaching "with great power and ability for a brother of his age." Of the service on Thanksgiving Day, he said:

Brother Wm. L. Lierly, home minister, delivered a very appropriate sermon on the occasion. Bro. Lierly is a strong and energetic speaker. Few persons in or out of the church can quote Scriptures as readily as he can, being frequently called the "Walking Bible." It appears that he has almost all the Bible at his command and is consequently a very able defender of the practices of the church . . .

As a rule, the Mill Creek church contributed quarterly for the church and mission purposes. Elder Vaniman sent the following report to the *Brethren at Work* of March 21, 1882:

. . . On the morning of the 4th at 10 A.M. met the brethren and sisters in council. Attended to such matters as came before us. While the church was attending to some minor matters, a venerable sister . . . came to the desk and asked if she could do something for the St. Louis Brethren meeting-house. We said yes and we would open the way. After the business of the church was all arranged, we gave all the members present the privilege to contribute their mite for the St. Louis meeting-house, when this old sister stepped to the table and laid five dollars on the table . . . after which many followed, casting in their mites. The zeal became so great that they turned their purses over and shook all the contents out on the table . . .

A comment made by S. S. Hummer about their next church council was:

I am glad to say that the Old Mill Creek church stands with the churches of Southern Illinois in the missionary cause; and it is our aim to do still more for the cause in the future. I believe that the missionary and Sunday School cause go hand in hand with the church in the promotion of the cause of the religion of Jesus . . . It was at this council meeting that Brother B. F. Britt was called to the ministry and installed into office. Those were the days when members from adjoining congregations visited churches at the times of council meetings and enjoyed

social interchange of members from different places. After preaching in the evening of this same day, an invitation was extended and "a man of more than ordinary zeal (of the Baptist church) and able to speak five different languages who came sixty miles from Missouri, stood up for Christ. After preaching on Sunday morning, we went where there was much water and he was baptized." The above was reported by Elder H. W. Strickler in the *Brethren at Work* of December 12, 1882.

Interest in the work of the Sunday school was evident by the church arranging for a series of lectures on the importance of maintaining and conducting Sunday schools, given by K. J. Taylor, lecturer for the Sunday School Association of the Christian Church—not lectures of a sectarian nature, but in the best interests of increased study of the Bible.



LIBERTY CHURCH AND PARSONAGE

At the quarterly council held on December 1, 1894, it was unanimously decided to change the name of the church from Mill Creek to Liberty, and thereafter it was officially known as the Liberty church.

These elders have had charge of the Mill Creek (Liberty) church: David Wolfe to 1879; Daniel Vaniman, 1879-1881; H. W. Strickler, 1881-1891; T. B. Digman, 1891-1893; George W. Cripe, 1893-1900; D. M. Brubaker, 1900-1907; J. W. Harshbarger, 1907-1913; M. Flory, 1913-1914; G. O. Stutsman, 1915-1917; I. D. Heckman, 1918-1936; Dewey B. Cave, 1937-1947; Wilbur Bantz, 1948—.

D. M. Brubaker was resident pastor during the time of his eldership, 1900-1907. Then T. A. Robinson moved to Coatsburg and took over the pastoral work at Liberty. Since then, other pastors serving have been: J. W. Harshbarger, 1909-1913; G. O. Stutsman, 1913-1918; I. J. Gibson, 1918-1919; H. G. Shank, summer 1919; R. L. Stinnett, 1920-1921; O. W. Eiler, 1922; Perry Hoover, 1925-1927; I. D. Heckman as elder-in-charge, supplying ministers until 1934; Dewey B. Cave, 1934-1945; S. E. Caster, 1945—.

During the pastorate of Dewey Cave the work was much revived. The women's work has been of great help in the support of the church; the men's work includes a God's Acre project. The young people too are active, supporting local and district work. The present membership is ninety-three.

HURRICANE CREEK

(1843—)

In the early 1840's a number of Brethren families moved from Indiana and settled about five miles south of Mulberry Grove, near the Hurricane Creek. In 1843, a group of fourteen members, under the leadership of Elders D. B. Sturgis and Jacob Moomaw, met at the home of Joseph Rench and organized the Hurricane Creek church. At the time of organization, George Beanblossom was elected to the ministry. Elder Sturgis retained oversight of the church

until he moved to Indiana in 1863; then William Elam was chosen as their elder.

Services were held in homes, schoolhouses, and groves and in the open. Communion services were held in well-built barns. A notice of one of those early communion meetings appeared in the *Gospel Visitor* of September 1859 in correspondence from D. B. Sturgis:

. . . Our love feast will be held at Mulberry Grove second Saturday in October next. We invite all the brethren, especially ministering brethren to come on that occasion. Vandalia on the Central Railroad, is our nearest station. Arrangements will be made to convey all from the railroad to the Grove which is eleven miles west of Vandalia in the edge of Bond County. Those wishing to attend the meeting should notify us a week or two before, so that the Brethren may know how many teams to send to the stations; also what train they will be on. Our meeting will commence on Friday and continue until Monday evening.—D. B. Sturgis.

Urging other settlers to come to Bond County, Jonathan Kessler wrote in the *Christian Family Companion* of January 9, 1866:

I would like to speak a few words through the medium of your paper, to the brethren and others wishing to select a home in the West. I think that Bond Co., and vicinity is worthy of your attention, as farms may be purchased cheap compared with the price in the East, and portions north of us

The church community grew and in 1874 a church house was built about a mile south of Pleasant Mound, the lumber being hauled from Vandalia, a distance of about seventeen or eighteen miles. To accommodate the members living in the vicinity of Mulberry Grove a second church house was built that same year. J. H. Goodman wrote in the *Pilgrim* of December 8, 1874: "We are building meeting house no. 2 in this church district, which is approaching completion." The two meetinghouses were about nine miles apart; the second was located about four and one-half miles northwest of Mulberry Grove.

The congregation became sufficiently large to divide the territory, and the division was made in 1875; the northern

part was named Mulberry Grove and the southern part retained the name, Hurricane Creek.

In 1881 the membership of the Hurricane Creek church numbered about one hundred. In 1882 a number of members, including three ministers, went with the Old Order Brethren.

In 1883 D. B. Gibson reported in the *Brethren at Work* of June 19 that the Hurricane Creek church was prospering and that ten had been baptized. In 1886 the membership numbered seventy; they were holding regular services in their church house and for several years before that time they had a Sunday school through the summer season with an attendance that reached one hundred thirty. For a num-



HURRICANE CREEK CHURCH

ber of years, with its members living near by, the church prospered and grew rapidly; but after a time many of the older members passed away and a number of the younger

people moved to different localities, leaving the church with but few members.

In 1908 the church house was moved to Pleasant Mound, commonly called Fairview. The sides and ends of the building were moved one at a time on a wagon, taken to the place of erection and propped into position until the foundation material was hauled and the new foundation ready for use. At times the roads were so muddy that a hundred bricks made a four-horse load. In spite of the bad roads and cold weather, the building was ready for use by the first of April, at which time Sunday school was started again. In May 1908 the building was rededicated with Elder J. W. Lear preaching the dedicatory sermon. For some time the work prospered until the membership reached almost one hundred. Then came a period when a number moved away and others died; the membership dwindled until there were around twenty active members and the attendance at Sunday school was only six or eight. Through the faithful efforts of Brethren William Ketring, David Rench, Alfred Redenbo and Charles Caylor, the church and Sunday school were kept going. In 1924 Nobel Bollinger came; he worked for two years, during which time the attendance at Sunday school greatly increased. Again there was a period of decline. Brethren David Rench, Alfred Redenbo and William Ketring passed away and the load rested heavily upon Charles Caylor. At that time the district board of administration began helping in the work by arranging for Brother W. A. Deardorff, who was superintendent of the Home at Girard, to preach there once or twice each month. This help was much appreciated.

In 1940 Brother Ausby Swinger and family moved there to take charge of the church. Through the combined efforts of many, the attendance at church and Sunday school increased and new members were added through revival ef-

forts and through some of the members from Mulberry Grove bringing letters of membership.

The activities of a newly organized B.Y.P.D. included: meetings each Sunday evening preceding the preaching service; a social meeting once each month; project work for C.P.S.; complete charge of Sunday evening services once every two months. A ladies' aid was also organized and has done good work. Prayer meetings were held each Tuesday evening.

In 1942 new sills were put under the church building and a new basement was completed just before the district meeting convened there in 1943, that year being the one-hundredth anniversary of the organization of the church.

The following elders have had charge: D. B. Sturgis, William Elam, John Metzger, John Wise, Henry Jones, Daniel Vaniman, Henry Lilligh, M. L. Hahn, J. W. Lear, Urias Blough, M. Flory, N. H. Miller, I. D. Heckman, D. J. Blickenstaff, Ausby Swinger and Russell Pepple.

Ministers elected in this congregation were: John Cripe, Joseph Jones, Granville Nevinger, John Clear, John Root, Allen Taylor, Martin Whiteneck, Jacob Root, Joshua Kessler, Ira Beanblossom, Oscar B. Redenbo and Lelland M. Baldwin.

Ausby Swinger was the first pastor, serving during the years 1940-1946. Opal Pence was the summer pastor in 1947. F. A. Oliver has served this church since 1948.

UPPER FULTON—COAL CREEK—CANTON (1845—)

A number of Brethren families from Franklin County, Pennsylvania, moved to Fulton County, Illinois, in the early forties, and in 1845 were organized into a church by Elder George Wolfe. Some of the charter members were the Negleys, Martins, Pools, Elliots, and Zooks.

Of these early days, Jacob Negley wrote an account for the *Brethren's Almanac* of 1877. We quote:

In the fall of 1844, I with my family, came to Fulton Co., Illinois not knowing of any members here. In the spring my brother-in-law, David Zuck, and his family came. He was in the second degree of the ministry. After settling down, we held social meetings at our homes every two weeks. At first we had small congregations, but after our neighbors heard of it our congregations increased. During our meetings we became acquainted with three or four members from Ohio, of whom were Brother John Markley and wife, who had been here several years when we came. In the fall of 1847, Brother Daniel Martin and his family came. He was an ordained elder. (We all migrated from Welsh Run, Franklin Co., Pa.) We then commenced holding meetings in the school houses regularly. We then had a small organized body of about eight or nine members.

About a year or less afterwards, one Sunday morning, a man by the name of Ensign called at my house to shelter from a storm. After some conversation he asked me to what denomination I belonged. I answered that we belonged to the German Baptists, but we were more commonly known by the name of Dunkards. He said, "Then you belong to the soup people." "Yes," I said, "we have soup at our communion meetings." Then he said, "I know a man by the name of Wolfe, in Adams Co., an able preacher who belongs to your church." I asked his first name and address, but he could give me neither. He, however, said that he had a brother-in-law living in the same county, who also belonged to the same church, whose address was Liberty, Adams Co., Ill. I made a note of it.

A short time after the above occurred, I wrote to Brother Wolfe, in care of Brother Bashnel. In about two weeks after I wrote Brother Bashnel came up to see us Through that we got Brother Wolfe's name and address. I then opened up a correspondence with him and he gave us several visits As nearly as I can remember, in the fall of 1849 we appointed our first love feast. Brother Samuel Garber and several brethren from Ogle Co., Ill. were with us. Brother Wolfe also was invited, and he came Afterwards, Brother Wolfe visited us frequently, and was known in the brotherhood in general.

Our church at present (1877) numbers about sixty members. We have four ministers, two of them are ordained elders, one in the second degree and one in the first degree, and three deacons. We have numbered from forty to sixty for the last twenty years, our loss by death and migration being balanced by accessions.—Jacob Negley, Farmington.

The first love feast was held in 1845. A meetinghouse was built in 1848, situated about eight miles northwest of Canton. It was known as the Upper Fulton church. Early presiding elders were: David Martin,¹ 1847; Jacob Negley and David Zook, 1854. John Eshelman was chosen to the ministry about 1862 and Mathias Lingerfelter in 1875.

In the year 1872 the name, Upper Fulton, was changed to Coal Creek. The first Sunday school, organized in 1877, was held weekly in the church, with an attendance of forty to fifty. Jacob Negley wrote of the continual growth of the church, in the *Primitive Christian and Pilgrim*, December 11, 1877:

About the last of August, 1877, there were four young persons baptized. By special invitation, Brother D. B. Gibson came to us the 1st of September and remained ten days and preached. While he was with us seven more united with us and one was reclaimed. After he left, three more were added by baptism. On the 13th and 14th of October we had our love feast. On the 15th and 16th the District Conference convened, making a four days' meeting. During the meeting five were added by baptism, and after the meeting two more, and in a week or ten days after, there were three received by letter; making in all an addition of twenty members . . . we feel encouraged.

In 1884 the Coal Creek church decided to hold a prayer meeting every Saturday evening. I. M. Gibson wrote for the *Gospel Messenger*: "In quarterly council, June 9, 1888, it was decided that an outpost of the main body of the church could organize into an independent congregation, to be known as the Macedonia church" We have no record of the organization being made, although there were preaching services in the Macedonia schoolhouse.

About the year 1900 the Coal Creek congregation bought a building in the south part of Canton, which served as a church home until in 1920, when a building was purchased at 265 North First Avenue. It was probably in 1920 that

¹ *Compiled Minutes* lists David Martin as elder (see page 17), although Jacob Negley in *Brethren's Almanac*, 1877, mentions Daniel Martin.



CANTON CHURCH

the name, Coal Creek, was changed to Canton. Their church house, proving inadequate, was sold and a new modern



CANTON PARSONAGE

church was built and dedicated in 1947. A new parsonage was also built the same year. The district meeting of 1948 was held in the Canton church. The membership in 1947 was one hundred eighty-nine, with an average attendance of one hundred four at Sunday school.

As early as 1897 an aid society was organized and the women's work has been quite active since 1910. The men's work has been organized for a number of years. A youth project is the building of a cabin at the camp near Astoria.

Elders of this church, in addition to the early elders named, have been D. B. Gibson, John Pool, Solomon Bucklew, M. L. Hahn, S. G. Bucher, D. E. Eshelman, S. S. Blough, E. F. Caslow, E. O. Norris, J. J. Johnson, W. A. Deardorff and I. J. Gibson.

Ministers and pastors who have served the Canton church were David Martin, Jacob Negley, David Zook, Samuel Tennis, John Eshelman, Mathias Lingenfelter, Samuel Shuck, John Haakie, Solomon Bucklew, D. E. Eshelman, Harold Rose, E. F. McVay, B. F. Shaffer, S. L. Cover, D. C. Brendlinger, Oscar Wagner, William Hatcher, Grant McGuire, J. J. Johnson, John Whiteneck, Frank A. Myers, Charles Dumond, J. E. Smeltzer and C. H. Cameron.

ASTORIA

(1852—)

Formerly part of the Upper Fulton church, Astoria was organized as a congregation in 1852 at the home of Samuel Falkenstein, four miles south of Astoria. Elders Isaac Hershey, John Poole and Abraham Buck assisted with the organization. The seven charter members were John Fitz and wife, Jesse Danner and wife, Samuel Falkenstein and wife and Nancy Stambaugh. John Fitz was elected to the ministry at that time. Although few in number, the members held meetings in barns and in their homes; a number of houses were built with folding partitions to accommodate the crowds that came to services. It was not unusual for folks to walk many miles to attend a meeting. Often after the morning service temporary tables were set up. While the men fed their teams the women placed on the tables a generous supply of bread, butter, apple-butter, pie and pickles—and the noon meal was served. After dinner, another service was held. The ministers spoke in German. There are some now living who remember worshipping in these homes and barns.¹

The first church house was built in 1867, about two

¹ Sources: The *Argus Searchlight* and the history of the Astoria church in the Astoria church directory of 1943. The early records of the Astoria church cannot be found.—Questionnaire

miles east of Astoria, where the Woodland church now stands. By that time the membership had grown to about one hundred. A second meetinghouse was built two and a half miles south of Astoria and was called the South Fulton house. It was dedicated on December 7, 1879, by Elder David Miller. A third church house, called the Walnut church, was built about four miles northwest of Astoria; the exact date of its erection is not known. The Walnut house was sold in 1919 and, although the South Fulton house remains, it is no longer used for services, as the congregation now worships in Astoria.

The first Sunday school was held about 1890, in the South Fulton house, on Sunday afternoons. For a time it was held on alternate Sundays at South Fulton and the Walnut house—first held only during the summer, but later throughout the year.

In 1881 the Astoria territory was divided: the west part



ASTORIA CHURCH

with a membership of one hundred thirty-five retained the name, Astoria; the east part with sixty-five members was called Woodland.

A church house was built in the town of Astoria in 1905; J. W. Lear preached the dedicatory sermon. In 1938 a house near the church was bought for use as a parsonage.

Ladies' aid was organized about 1906 and met in various homes or in the church. They now have a complete organization in line with the women's work program. Mission work is carried on in connection with the pastor's program with live interest. The men have responded to the projects suggested by the district. They donated one thousand dollars for a half-carload of wheat for relief. The young people often give programs which are well received by the congregation. Much interest is being taken in the development of the new Brethren camp south of Astoria.

These elders have been in charge of the Astoria church: David Miller, Joseph Hollinger, David Hollinger, M. J. McClure, Conrad Fitz, Solomon Bucklew, J. H. Baker, M. L. Hahn, J. W. Lear, D. J. Blickenstaff, A. H. Lind, S. S. Blough, Michael Flory, I. D. Heckman, W. H. Shull, E. F. Caslow, E. O. Norris, J. J. Johnson, W. A. Deardorff, I. J. Gibson, Galen T. Lehman, E. F. Sherfy and Dewey B. Cave.

Ministers and pastors of this church have been: John Fitz, Jesse Danner, S. D. Hamm, Joseph Hollinger, Dan Hollinger, Conrad Fitz, Jonas Beck, John Demy, Cyrus Bucher, Theodore Price, J. H. Baker, Isaac Myers, S. G. Bucher, C. A. Gruber, R. C. Stambaugh, J. J. Johnson, A. H. Lind, S. S. Blough, A. L. Sellers, E. F. Caslow, E. O. Norris, I. J. Gibson, Lester E. Fike, Benton Rhoades, Pius Gibble and G. G. Canfield. Homer N. Kiracofe is the present pastor.

The membership of the Astoria church in 1948 was two hundred nineteen.

PANTHER CREEK

(1852—)

The Panther Creek church is located near Roanoke in Woodford County. In 1849 Christian Gish and wife, of the Peter's Creek church near Salem, Virginia, moved near to the present site of Roanoke, Illinois. The next year David Moore and wife, also of Salem, Virginia, parents of J. H. Moore, settled in that same vicinity. In 1852 David Martin and Jacob Negley held meetings at that place and baptized eight: James R. Gish and Barbara, his wife; George Gish and wife; Tobias Kindig and wife; P. A. Moore (brother of David) and his wife. The twelve members mentioned, and Lee Anna Brown, were the thirteen charter members who were organized into a church in 1852 by David Martin, Jacob Negley and David Zook.

Of those early days J. H. Moore reminisced in the *Pilgrim* of January 19, 1875:

I well remember the day—about twenty-four years ago—when my father's house was one of only four to be seen on this then wild and desolate prairie. In those gone by days of childhood, when I walked over this grassy plain to school, or dropped corn after the sod-plow, snakes, wolves, big sloughs and large prairie fires were about the leading features of the country. But when the Virginians began to thickly settle here, they soon changed this wild region into beautiful fertile fields.

A church house was built in 1856, two miles east of Roanoke. George W. Gish wrote for the *Gospel Visitor*, April 10, 1860, that nine had been added to the church by baptism and it was said by many that the largest crowd was present that they had ever seen at a common meeting.

Some years later, D. M. Holsinger in a letter to the *Christian Family Companion* of August 16, 1871, told of the Panther Creek church. He said: "Since that time [of organization] several branches were struck off which are supplied with ministers and are in a prosperous condition.

At this time the Panther Creek church . . . is said to number about two hundred members, to all appearances in a healthy condition." In that year the district meeting of Southern Illinois was held at the Panther Creek church.

Two years later, at Christmastime in 1873, J. H. Moore visited the Panther Creek church and wrote about it in the *Pilgrim* of January 13, 1874:

The church has grown to be one of the leading churches in Southern Illinois. The brethren here have been for years under absolute necessity of defending their doctrine against repeated assaults of a well-disciplined force, and so far have not only held their own but are steadily gaining ground The Campbellites have a college not far from here where preachers are trained.

The Campbellites challenged the Brethren to a public debate but would not agree to defend their own practices when the Brethren insisted that the whole debate should be published at the Brethren's expense.

During J. H. Moore's visit, on December 21, 1873, the time to close the Sunday school for that year came—it had been held at the meetinghouse during the summer of that year. With the Bible as their textbook, young and old were



PANTHER CREEK CHURCH

much interested and had committed to memory about fourteen thousand verses of Scripture during that summer. In 1877 twenty-four were added to the church, most of them being Sunday-school pupils.

The church has been under the oversight of these elders: James R. Gish, George Gish, Philip A. Moore, John Barnhart, C. S. Holsinger, S. A. Honberger, J. W. Switzer, S. Bucklew, J. H. Baker, S. W. Garber, M. A. Whisler and J. E. Small.

The following have been called to the ministry in this church: James R. Gish, 1852; George Gish, 1852; John Barnhart, 1860; Michael Garber, 1863; Philip Moore; J. J. Kindig, 1863; C. Barnhart, 1873; W. T. Keiser, 1881; J. W. Gish, 1881; John Reiff, 1884; C. C. Brubaker, 1891; J. K. Eller, 1893; J. W. Switzer, 1899; Amos Yordy, 1907; Joel Yordy, 1907; and E. C. Cawley, 1907.

These other ministers have also given pastoral service: W. D. Calvert, J. H. Neher, Grant McGuire, J. E. Small, and Ira Hiatt.

The women's organization has helped with local church finances, relief work, and other projects.

Men's work was organized in 1948. The men farm the thirty-five acres of land left to the church by Charles McCauley. The church has given food and clothing for relief, the juniors helping in this work.

Of outstanding significance to the brotherhood was the generosity of Sister Barbara Gish, widow of Elder James R. Gish, who gave assets amounting to approximately fifty thousand dollars to the General Mission Board, making possible the Gish Fund for ministers of the Church of the Brethren.

OAKLEY, formerly CERRO GORDO, Macon County
(1856—)

Early in the 1850's, when central Illinois was very sparsely settled, the first Brethren families who came to Macon County located within what is now the bounds of the Oakley congregation. Among the earliest settlers were the family of Jonas Wolfe, a deacon who came from Pennsylvania and settled north of the Sangamon River about four miles northwest of Cerro Gordo, and Daniel Kuns and family from the Middlefork church near Lafayette, Indiana, who settled two and a half miles west of Cerro Gordo. In April of 1856 two ministers came to the locality: Leonard Blickenstaff and family of Tippecanoe County, Indiana, and Peter Replogle from Carroll County, Indiana.

The first meetings were held in schoolhouses and in homes. On May 26, 1856, they met in the home of Daniel Kuns and a church was organized with ten charter members: Peter Replogle and wife, Leonard Blickenstaff and wife, Daniel Kuns and wife, Jonas Wolfe and wife, Brother Stuckey and Sister Baer. This church was known as the Sangamon Valley church. Some time later it was learned that there was another congregation having this name (which was probably later known as the Sugar Creek church). So the name, Cerro Gordo, Macon County, was chosen. From this small beginning sprang the surrounding congregations: Milmine, La Place, and Cerro Gordo, Piatt County.

Elder John Metzger of Indiana was chosen elder and later he moved to this congregation. The first love feast was held on September 27, 1857, in the new barn of Leonard Blickenstaff, one-fourth mile south of Oakley. Immediately following the communion service, John Blickenstaff and his wife were baptized.

The membership grew in numbers through additions by baptism and by Brethren families moving into the territory. By 1866 the membership being too large and scattered for convenience, the territory was divided into three districts. The east part was called Milmine, the dividing line being the road at the east side of Cerro Gordo. The south part was called Okaw (now La Place), the territory south of the William Street road—now Route 105. The territory north of this road and west of the Milmine line retained the name, Cerro Gordo, Macon County.

In 1867 a large brick meetinghouse was built, two and a half miles west of Cerro Gordo. Menno Stauffer, a minister living in the congregation, had oversight of the carpentry work. One large room occupied the entire main floor; there were two long preachers' tables, behind which were seated the ministers, facing the congregation, with the deacons seated on the other side of the tables. A base-tables and benches; in it breakfasts and dinners were served at the two-day love feasts. A stairway led to the attic, which was curtained into rooms, where straw-filled ticks served as beds. The dedicatory sermon was preached by Elder R. H. Miller, Sr., of Indiana. In that same year the district meeting of Southern Illinois was held in this new church house.

In the *Christian Family Companion* of July 4, 1871, is an account, written by J. H. Moore, of attending a two-day love feast at this church. He wrote: "... Here we saw the largest collection of members that we are accustomed to see . . . younger members of whom there were quite a number."

The first evangelistic meetings of which we have record were held in schoolhouses. Meetings were also held in the church house in January and February of 1872, by R. H.



OAKLEY CHURCH

Miller of Indiana. Judging from the accounts in the diary of D. C. Buckingham, there were twenty baptisms. The entry for January 24, 1872, was: "After meeting by R. H. Miller at the Brick Meeting house, we went to the river where four were baptized. The ice was ten inches thick." Quite a number more were baptized during the months following these meetings. As in many congregations, members were opposed to protracted meetings, but after all these meetings they realized that this was what they had experienced and that the Lord had been with them in the conversion of many.

In 1879 a church house was built in the town of Cerro Gordo by John Metzger, at his own expense. The church territory was again divided in 1884, for the convenience of the members living in and near Cerro Gordo. The east part took the name, Cerro Gordo, Piatt County, and the west part took the name, Oakley.

The first Sunday school held in the Brick church was in 1886, although as early as 1874 a union Sunday school

was held in a schoolhouse only one-half mile east of the church; some of the Brethren took part in this.

A. J. Nickey wrote in the *Gospel Messenger* of November 11, 1890, that the fall communion held in the Oakley church was the largest ever held there and many failed to gain admittance.

Social meetings and teachers' meetings were held in the church and in homes at an early date. An aid society was organized in 1905 and has been functioning ever since. The women's work is now fully organized. At various times a young people's organization has been active. A prayer meeting was organized in 1908.

Six of her sons and daughters, reared in the community and baptized in the Oakley church, have served as foreign missionaries: B. F. Heckman in China; Flora Nickey Ross Bjorklund, Dr. Barbara Nickey, Ellen Heckman Wagoner Forney and Verna Blickenstaff in India; and Ida Buckingham in Sweden.

The progress of the Oakley church has been largely due to the strong ministerial leadership. Elected to the ministry were: A. J. Nickey, A. L. Bingaman, D. J. Blickenstaff, W. T. Heckman, I. D. Heckman, Leland Templeton, Leo Blickenstaff, Joseph Hamm, Bennett Stutsman, J. O. Barnhart and Dan L. Blickenstaff.

Resident ministers have been: Leonard Blickenstaff, Peter Replogle, John Metzger, Joseph Hendricks, Menno Stauffer, David Frantz, A. J. Nickey, A. L. Bingaman, Daniel Mohler, Henry Troxel, D. J. Blickenstaff, W. T. Heckman, J. H. Hudson, S. G. Nickey, M. J. McClure, I. D. Heckman, Leland Templeton, Leo Blickenstaff, Joseph Hamm, G. O. Stutsman, Bennett Stutsman, J. O. Barnhart and Dan L. Blickenstaff.

Summer pastors serving this church have been: David Ensign, 1942; Robert Richards, 1946; Guy Buch, 1947; and



OAKLEY PARSONAGE

Glenn Stauffer, 1948. A parsonage was built in 1948 by the donated labor of the men of the church and community. It was dedicated June 5, 1949, by Roy B. Teach, and at that time Delmar Moyer was installed as pastor. At the present time the membership is one hundred thirty-six. Elders who have served this congregation:

John Metzger, David Frantz, M. J. McClure, W. T. Heckman, and D. J. Blickenstaff. W. T. Heckman is the present elder.

The Oakley church has been active in the Brethren service program and in relief work.

BIG CREEK—now WALNUT GROVE (1859—)

The Big Creek church, located three and one-half miles southeast of Parkersburg, in Richland County, Illinois, is now known as the Walnut Grove church. The name was not changed until 1931; by that time walnut trees had been planted around the church and Big Creek seemed quite a distance away.

A very early account of the Big Creek church was written by Michael Forney for the *Christian Family Companion* of November 20, 1870. We quote:

... Here I will give you a short history of the church in southern Illinois. Myself and family settled here in October, 1857, only two members. After I was here a while, I thought I passed a brother on the road; and afterwards I saw him working by the roadside. I asked him how he was getting along and where he was from. He told me he was from Ohio, and located here in June, but did not think he would stay here for there were no meetings of ours here. I asked what kind. He answered, "The old Dunkards." I asked him,

"Do you belong?" "Yes," was the reply. Upon this I gave him the right hand of fellowship and a kiss and told him, "That is my faith."

After this we met together to hold worship, till the summer of 1858, when I was requested to hold public worship. In the spring of 1859, we were visited by Elder David Rittenhouse, and John Forney. They held meetings at different places and requested me to go on in the discharge of my duties. We found four more members, who had lived here for thirteen years without any knowledge of Brethren living in this country. They soon became lively members. In October, 1859, we held our first lovefeast. Twenty-seven members communed; and six were baptized. We organized and elected one speaker and two visiting brethren, having a territory of six or seven counties before us

It was at the home of Michael Forney that this church was organized on September 24, 1859, with Elders Joseph Emmert of Franklin Grove, Illinois, and John Forney of Polo, Illinois, together with David Summers and George Long of Owen County, Indiana. The charter members were: Michael Forney, Rachel Forney, Samuel M. Forney, Sally Forney, John Hart, Maria Hart, John Glathart and wife, John Sanger and wife, William Tamsett, Rebecca Tamsett, Jacob Secrist, Rachel Secrist, Jacob Studebaker and wife, Samuel and Barbara Studebaker, Barnett Losh and his mother, Susan Nesbit, Philip Bible and wife, David Rothrock and wife, and Daniel Trump and wife.

Early in the history of the church quite a number of men were called to the ministry: S. M. Forney, Daniel Trump, Barnett Losh, Joseph Cripe, William Pullen, J. B. Allensworth and George W. Eavey. Peter Bowers, a minister, moved into the congregation in October 1869. From March 17 to 27, 1870, Elder George Studebaker from Muncie, Indiana, preached at the Oak Grove schoolhouse, generally twice a day, with seven added to the church by baptism and one reclaimed. Before they had a meetinghouse, services were conducted in the Union and Oak Grove schoolhouses; also meetings were held in the neighborhood of Samsville.

The first church house was built sometime between

1873 and 1875, with much of the material and labor donated. According to the *Christian Family Companion and Gospel Visitor*, December 7, 1875, the first love feast was held in this house on November 6 and 7, 1875.

During the early years a number of series of meetings were reported in the *Brethren at Work*: Joseph Hendricks, Daniel Neher and J. P. Horning held meetings at night for a week before the communion in October 1877; Jesse Calvert preached in March 1878, with thirteen additions to the church; D. B. Gibson in the spring of 1880 with four baptisms; and a number of meetings were held by R. R. Goshorn of Indiana in 1883.¹

Two ministers were elected in 1882: Joseph Cordien and A. C. Califer.

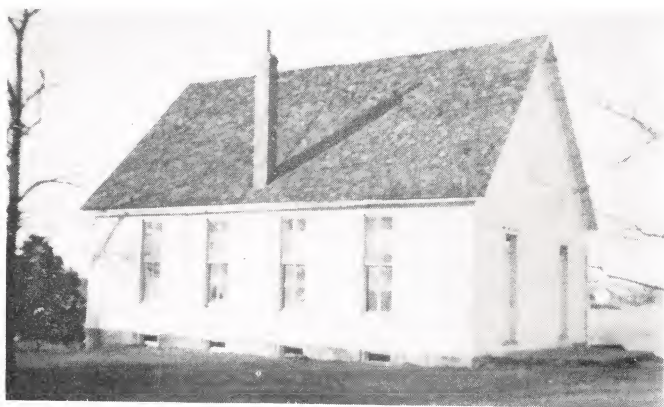
J. M. Forney wrote from Parkersburg, Illinois, in the *Gospel Messenger* of November 6, 1883: ". . . We contemplate finishing our meeting house this fall and have it ready for dedication the fourth Sunday in December, as we look for Brother McClure of Christian County at that time." Also, in the *Gospel Messenger* of December 11, 1883, he wrote: "The members of the Big Creek congregation have set Sunday, the 23rd of December for the dedicatory services of their church house in Richland County, Illinois Elder M. J. McClure from Morrisonville is expected to be present." Evidently the church was not dedicated until the following spring, for in the *Gospel Messenger* of January 20, 1885, G. W. Eavey wrote from Parkersburg: ". . . We have a good meeting-house, 35 by 50, which was dedicated the 18th of last May. Brother George Cripe was with us and preached the dedicatory sermon. There are about fifty earnest and working members in this congregation. Brother Michael Forney is our elder"

A Sunday school was organized on April 24, 1892, with

¹ See the *Brethren at Work*, December 13, 1877; May 30, 1878; May 2, 1880.

J. C. Forney, grandson of Michael Forney, as the superintendent, and an attendance of forty-two. Previous to this, a union Sunday school was held in the Oak Grove school-house near the site of the Brethren church.

About this time J. C. Forney and William T. Wilkinson were elected to the ministry, but both of these ministers later moved to the West—Forney to North Dakota and Wilkinson to California. Later elections to the ministry were that of Dow Ridgely in 1903 and that of A. J. Beeghly in 1907.



WALNUT GROVE CHURCH

The church house was rebuilt in 1901. Various activities of the church have been organized. A Christian workers' society was organized on February 14, 1914, and meetings were held with good interest and attendance until most of the young people went away to school or entered nurses' training. The interest later revived, then lapsed; later the B.Y.P.D. held interesting meetings until the rationing of gasoline and tires came during wartime.

A ladies' aid society was organized on December 6, 1916, and met in the homes of members. Reorganized in

1921, it now functions as a part of the women's work program of the church.

On a two-acre tract, located a quarter of a mile east of the church, a conveniently arranged parsonage was built in 1941. Adjoining the church lot is the cemetery, on land donated in an early day by Michael Forney. Also, there is about an acre of land just east of the cemetery and churchyard, formerly used as a hitching lot, which is now in use as a recreation ground.

The following elders have been in charge of the congregation: William Elam, Michael Forney, S. M. Forney, John Harshbarger, J. C. Stoner, D. J. Blickenstaff, Dow A. Ridgely, I. D. Heckman, Dolar Ritchey, Oliver Dearing, Glenn Carr and Ausby Swinger.



WALNUT GROVE
PARSONAGE

These resident ministers have served the church: M. Forney, S. M. Forney, John Hart, David Rothrock, Daniel Trump, Barnett Losh, J. B. Allensworth, Joseph Cripe, William Pullen, George W. Eavey, Peter Bowers, J. C. Forney, William Wilkinson, A. J. Beeghly, Dow A. Ridgely, N. S. Dale and E. C. Cawley. Pastors were Max Hartsough and J. Oliver Dearing.

Ausby Swinger is the present pastor.

A number of faithful members have gone out from this congregation and contributed to the work of the church in other places. Among these are the S. M. Forneys, the Eli Rothrocks, the Frank Dollalions, the J. C. Forneys, the Ira Michaels, and Bertha Ridgely Swank.

The church is growing in interest and in membership.

ALLISON PRAIRIE

(1865—)

The Allison Prairie church is situated five miles east of Pinkstaff, although for many years the church was about six miles northeast of Lawrenceville. The prairie—Allison Prairie—is on the west bank of the Wabash River, and is about six miles wide and three times that long.

The first meetings by the Brethren in Lawrence County were held in the Russelville schoolhouse in June 1860 by Elders George Long and Jacob Summers of Owen County, Indiana, and Michael Forney of Richland County, Illinois. In August 1860 Elders M. Forney and Samuel Forney, assisted by a minister, John Hart—all of Richland County—held meetings at the Russelville Center and Plank Road schoolhouses in Allison Township. Regular meetings were held by some of these ministers, once every month. The resident members and the territory belonged to the Big Creek congregation in Richland County until June 1865, when the members living in Lawrence County were organized into a church called Allison Prairie. Elder Michael Forney was in charge; John Hart was their resident minister, having moved there in 1861; William Tamset and John Michaels were deacons. The sixteen charter members were: Philip Bible and wife (who had moved there from Virginia and were the first resident members), John Hart and wife, William Tamset and wife, John Michaels and wife, Ephraim White and wife, and Brethren Eaks, Hester, and Bryan and their wives.

Elder Ira Calvert moved to Allison Prairie on February 20, 1866, and the following summer accepted the office of elder of the congregation, preaching nearly every Lord's Day; he filled appointments at four different meeting places in the county. The first love feast was held in Elder Calvert's

barn in September 1868. The membership in July 1870 numbered twenty-three.

Elder Calvert was killed in an accident by a runaway team on June 6, 1871. Absolom Hyre of La Motte Prairie was chosen elder in the spring of 1872. Three were elected to the ministry in 1875; Jacob Gerhart, T. M. Calvert, and J. H. Jellison.

In 1877 two series of meetings were held: the first in May by Elder John Metzger, as a result of which twelve were baptized; and in August by Jesse Calvert of Warsaw, Indiana, with twenty-nine baptisms. Brother T. M. Calvert, of Allison Prairie, reported in the *Primitive Christian and Pilgrim* of December 11, 1877: “. . . We number about seventy-two members, forty of which have been baptized during the past year. Our Sabbath school closed on the 28th of last month. It was the first Sunday School ever held in this part by the brethren”

J. M. Gerhart donated an acre of land to the church, and a meetinghouse was built on that site, six miles northeast of Lawrenceville, Illinois. George Cripe of Indiana was the contractor-carpenter. On November 3, 1878, the new meetinghouse was dedicated with an appropriate address by Elder Isaac Billheimer.¹ Samuel Forney was chosen elder on October 19, 1878. Edmon Davis was elected to the ministry on May 3, 1880, when the church membership numbered eighty-five.

Elders-in-charge after this time were: Menno Stauffer; J. H. Jellison; John Harshbarger; D. B. Gibson; S. W. Garber, who was pastor-elder for eighteen years; O. B. Redenbo; G. W. Miller; N. H. Miller for sixteen years; D. C. Ritchey; and Glenn Carr.

Other ministers elected by this congregation were Kenneth Fisher, William Ritchey, and Durwood Hayes. On

¹ *Brethren at Work*, November 28, 1878

August 10, 1947, Max Fisher was installed into the full ministry and his wife was licensed for one year.

In 1914 a parsonage was built on two acres of ground which were donated by J. H. Jellison. Pastors who have served this church are: S. W. Garber, O. B. Redenbo, N. H. Miller, D. M. Brower, G. W. Miller, C. I. Weber, William P. Dillon, D. C. Ritchey, and Glenn Carr.



ALLISON PRAIRIE CHURCH

In April 1942, for an airplane training field, the War Department took over nearly three thousand acres, including the land where the church and parsonage stood, paying \$3,765.00 for the properties with the privilege given to the church of buying the buildings back at a salvage price of \$885.00. Four acres of land were secured one and a half mile north of the old site and the buildings were moved there; the present site is five miles east of Pinkstaff. During the moving and remodeling of the church, services were held in the Glade schoolhouse, adjoining the new site. The



ALLISON PRAIRIE
PARSONAGE

in 1938 and was reorganized in 1944. As a group the men farmed and had a God's Acre project. An active young people's organization, holding weekly meetings, has study periods and programs and helps in local and district projects.

From 1914 to 1942, two hundred eleven persons were baptized in this congregation; the membership in 1942 reached a total of one hundred eleven and the membership in 1948 was one hundred forty-three.

BUSHNELL (1865-1879)

Bushnell was a part of the Upper Fulton church until 1865, when it was organized as a separate congregation. The first official body was composed of A. G. Black (minister), John Pool, Sr., and Henry Zuck (deacons). Two ministers were elected in 1867: John L. Myers and Jacob Burgard. Joseph Meyer wrote in the *Primitive Christian* of August 22, 1867:

The Bushnell congregation in McDonough and Fulton counties, Ill. has appointed a communion meeting on Saturday and Sunday, the 2nd and 3rd of September next, at the home of Henry Zug, near Ellisville in Fulton county seven or eight miles east of Prairie City

church properties were rededicated on September 27, 1942, Elder Otho Winger of North Manchester, Indiana, delivering the address.

Women's work was organized in 1913 and has continued active, raising funds for local needs and for a number of relief projects. Various books have been studied by the group. Men's work began

station . . . from which place a stage is running daily to Ellisville, right past the place of meeting

In 1875 John Pool, Jr., was elected to the ministry and A. G. Black was ordained elder and took charge of the Bushnell church. Elder Daniel Vaniman, in the *Brethren at Work*, June 27, 1878, wrote of attending a communion meeting in Brother Cook's barn and related that on the following Sunday Brother John Pool was forwarded to the second degree of the ministry.

Because of the growing size of the congregation, a division of church territory was made in the year 1879 and the name, Bushnell, was then dropped; the northern part of the territory was called Spring Run and the southern part was called Camp Creek.

URBANA (1863-1904)

Elder John Metzger was the first Brethren minister to hold meetings in Champaign County, where George Dilling and wife had been the first Brethren settlers at a place five miles east of Urbana, Illinois. With Elder John Metzger in charge, the Urbana church was organized in 1863.

The first minister to settle there was John Barnhart of Woodford County, who gave the following account of some of the early activities of the Urbana church, in a letter written to the *Christian Family Companion*, July 31, 1866:

. . . I came here in February and found a small body of brethren. Since I have been here, I have been much encouraged in seeing the interest manifested We had a council meeting on the last Saturday in June, Brother John Metzger presiding. We had an election for one visit brother; the lot fell upon Brother George Dilling. We now have an organized church here, and we will say to the brethren who desire to move to Illinois, "Give us a call and see our country"

Among the early Brethren who settled in Champaign County were John P. Baily, a deacon, and several members

from Ohio who came to the vicinity of Thomasboro, Illinois.

The first communion service in Champaign County was held at the home of George Dilling on the twelfth and thirteenth of October 1867. Love feasts were usually held at the homes of members; in 1868 one was held five miles east of Urbana, and in 1869 the meeting was held six miles north-east of Urbana and four miles east of Thomasboro.

In a period of a few years, three young men were elected to the ministry: about 1867, Aaron B. Snyder; John H. Moore on September 18, 1869; and Noah Kinsey one or two years later.

It was in 1869 that John Barnhart, of Urbana, wrote in the *Christian Family Companion* of May 18:

After meeting we gave an invitation. There was an old man who came and made application to be received by baptism. We made arrangements and I baptized the old father in the Sangamon river. When we went to the water, I made some inquiry about his age; according to the family record he was one hundred years old last March.

A few years after this, John Barnhart moved from this congregation and the preaching was left to the three young ministers, Aaron Snyder, J. H. Moore, and Noah Kinsey. Then the church was strengthened when, in 1871, John Lear and Mattie, his wife, moved to the locality. Mattie Lear was a very well educated woman with a good knowledge of science, history and theology, and she did a considerable amount of writing for the Brethren periodicals.¹

Concerning the growth of this church, J. H. Moore wrote in the *Pilgrim* of November 19, 1872: "This church was organized about five years ago with only eight members and now consists of more than seventy, in a healthy and flourishing condition."

In 1875 A. J. Bowers, a minister from Indiana, settled there and that year a meetinghouse was built four miles east

¹ *Christian Family Companion*, 1871; *The Pilgrim*, November 25, 1873; March 9 and September 14 of 1875

of Urbana. After seven years of experience in the ministry, J. H. Moore moved from this church to Lanark to become the editor of the *Brethren at Work*. Two years later, after visiting the Urbana church, he said that there were almost a hundred members scattered over Champaign County, with but one minister, A. J. Bowers; he added that there were nine places where meetings ought to be held. The Brethren had preached at Penfield, Rantoul, St. Joseph, and other points.

After this time the records are meager, but indications are that through the years the membership gradually decreased. Elders who served the Urbana church were: John Metzger, Menno Stauffer, John Barnhart, J. H. Baker, A. J. Bowers, and S. Heitz. The Urbana church was disorganized in 1904.

HUDSON (1865-1926)

A number of Brethren families moved from Pennsylvania and West Virginia and settled in McLean County, near Hudson, about nine miles north of Bloomington. In 1865 James R. Gish and George Gish organized this body of twenty-one members into a church. The first official body was composed of: Michael Lyon, elder; Thomas D. Lyon and Joseph Michael, ministers; John Y. Snavely, Abraham Blough, and Moses Snavely, deacons.

In the Hudson congregation, Alvin Pollock and Urias Blough were elected to the ministry. In 1875 a meetinghouse was built about two miles north of Hudson and dedicated on September 17, with a love feast held that same evening.

During the long ministry of T. D. Lyon, Mattie A. Lear located at Hudson and, authorized to preach, very ably filled the pulpit, alternating with Elder Lyon. In 1900 D. J. Blickenstaff of Oakley moved to Hudson and continued three

years as part-time pastor; he was ordained on December 6, 1901, and given charge of the church. Interest was revived through various evangelistic efforts. Elder J. H. Neher followed as pastor and elder; the church building was moved to Hudson and various improvements were made. With but few members, there was a gradual decline, and in 1926 the church requested disorganization, which was effected, letters of membership being granted to all members. The proceeds from the sale of the church property were given to the district mission board for use in the district.

Through the years the following elders served the Hudson church: Michael Lyon, T. D. Lyon, Solomon Bucklew, D. J. Blickenstaff, J. H. Neher, S. W. Garber, J. W. Switzer and W. T. Heckman.

MILMINE (1866-1905)

The Milmine church was the east part of the Cerro Gordo, Macon County church (now Oakley). Because the membership became too large and scattered for convenience in worship, a division was made in 1866; the east part was called Milmine and the south part Okaw (now La Place). The road at the east edge of Cerro Gordo was the dividing line.

A group of Brethren families from Indiana bought and improved farms a few miles northwest of Milmine. Among these were three brothers—Henry, David and Lewis Kuns. Other families of members located in this community and held meetings in schoolhouses. John Wyne, who came from Virginia about 1867, was one of the early ministers.

In 1867 a church house was built on the farm of Henry Kuns. The church was presided over by Elders John Metzger, David Troxel, D. B. Gibson, G. W. Cripe and S. Heitz.

The following ministers were elected: Henry Kuns

and Daniel Mohler, 1881; S. Heitz, 1891; Heister Landes, 1894.

Although Milmine was a growing, prosperous church for a time, the membership was greatly reduced through emigration. In 1905 the church was disorganized and merged with the adjoining congregations of Cerro Gordo and Okaw. The church house was moved five miles south into the Okaw territory (near the Centennial schoolhouse) and rededicated as the Centennial church house.

The records of the Milmine church have been lost.

OKAW—LA PLACE

(1866—)

While the Cerro Gordo, Macon County church (now Oakley), was the first center of Brethren activities in this region, other settlements were being made that soon led to the organization of new congregations. Sometime in the 1850's, several Brethren families moved from Clinton and Tippecanoe counties in Indiana and settled in what was then known as the Seven Mile Grove—it was seven miles southeast of Cerro Gordo. Prominent among these families were those of John Kuns and Daniel Cripe, the latter a minister who spoke in German, and Henry Troxel, a minister. Solomon Pipinger moved there from Wisconsin. In 1863 Robert Edgecomb, a minister from Allen County, Ohio, moved to a location at the southern end of the Grove. In 1865 Abraham Ritchie, also a minister, came from Pennsylvania and located northeast of Sullivan. About that time a number of Brethren families came from Indiana and settled on what is called the Ridge, about five miles southwest of Cerro Gordo, including families of Samuel Ulrey, Leonard Fouts, Daniel Wagner; also the Cripe families, who made their homes six miles northwest of the Seven Mile Grove.

Up to the year 1866 they all belonged to the Cerro Gordo, Macon County church (now Oakley), and were presided over by Elder John Metzger.

In 1866 a division of church territory was made. The part south of the William Street Road, now Route 105, took the name of Okaw from a stream near by. The twenty-six charter members included four preachers and three deacons. They chose John Metzger as their elder.

For about ten years they were without a meetinghouse, but services were held in schoolhouses and communions in residences or in barns. About 1866 the first communion was held in the barn of Leonard Fouts on the Ridge; in the fall of 1867 one was held at the home of Jacob Wolfe in the Grove, in a shed made of lumber which was furnished by Daniel Oakes. In 1868 another was held on the Ridge, at the home of J. P. Replogle; the services were held on the porch, Elder Joseph Hendricks officiating. Regular meetings were held in schoolhouses; most prominent among these were the Grove and the Ridge schoolhouses, where meetings were held alternately, every two weeks. Brother John Arnold wrote in an unpublished account:

It was a very common sight to see those earnest old brethren on Sunday morning, lined out across the then unoccupied prairie, winding around ponds and crossing sloughs, some on horseback, some in lumber wagons, and a few in their quaint so-called carryalls (and that name was very appropriate for they were used in going to town, to the mill, to the shop, and to church). Through driving snow storms, zero weather, pelting rains, mud and heat, they attended services.

In the winter of 1869 Robert Edgecomb and John Arnold drove eighteen miles through zero weather to hold a meeting near Bethany. On Sunday they drove two and a half miles to a stream where eight inches of ice was cut and baptism was administered.

Their council meetings and first Sunday schools were held in the Grove schoolhouse. In 1875 a church house was

built one-half mile east of La Place on the Wolfe farm. Elder Jacob Waggoner, his wife and her mother paid almost half of the cost, which was over \$3,300.00 There was no dedicatory service, but the first sermon was preached by Brother Martin Neher, followed by Elder Jacob Waggoner. Ministers from the Methodist church and the Church of God were present and took part in the services. J. P. Replogle reported in the *Christian Family Companion and Gospel Visitor*, May 4, 1875: "The church of Okaw is in a prosperous condition at present. There are about one hundred thirty members; six ministers and six deacons."

There was a group of members near Tuscola, among them Kalen Heckman, who wrote in the *Brethren at Work* of August 6, 1877:

There have been three souls added to the church since our last notice, making altogether now, fifteen in number, and if I am not mistaken it has been only about two years since the first member was baptized by the brethren of the Okaw church . . . this church being about twenty-five miles east of that place.

In September of the same year, Kalen Heckman reported that the Brethren of Tuscola had a council meeting on September 1 and elected two deacons, George Bowers and Moses Stutsman.¹ In 1878 eleven members had moved from Tuscola, reducing the number from nineteen to eight, and Kalen Heckman moved to Cornell, Illinois.

George W. Cripe, then of Indiana, held a series of meetings in 1877, the first revival to be held in the church house, at which time there were thirty-six conversions. The next year a number of the Okaw members moved to Kansas. Probably because of personal interest felt in knowing some people in Kansas, the Okaw and adjoining churches made a liberal donation for Kansas relief in 1895; a carload of corn, ground into meal, and clothing was sent and distributed to three hundred thirty families.² It was in 1881

¹ *Brethren at Work*, September 17, 1877

² *Gospel Messenger*, February 19, 1895

that permission was given to hold a Sunday school in the church.



LA PLACE PARSONAGE

In 1901 the church house was moved into La Place to its present location and a rededicatory sermon was preached by Elder John Wright. In 1904 the old Milmine church was rebuilt at a site five miles northeast of La Place and called Centennial church house. This house

of worship was dedicated on October 2, 1904, by Elder Jacob Wyne. The city of Decatur was largely in the Okaw territory and came under the supervision of the Okaw church. In 1908 a church house was built in Decatur by the district mission board and the Okaw church. In 1942 the Okaw church came into possession of a splendid parsonage, the gift of Brother George Ulrey, a deacon for many years, coupled with a cash donation of \$500.00 from Elder Jacob Wyne. With money left to the church by Rachel Phillips an electric organ was bought and installed in 1949.

These ministers have been elected in this congregation: John Arnold, 1876; S. S. Younger, 1879; S. S. Miller, 1884; William L. Bingaman; Jacob Wyne and Isaac Brubaker, 1894; William I. Buckingham, 1897; John Hudson and S. G. Nickey, 1899; George W. Miller, 1902; William Haynes, 1906; Noah H. Miller and Albert Wolfe, 1907; Amos R. Eikenberry and J. Elmer Wagoner, 1909; Eldo Henricks, 1919; Glenn Garber, 1924; Howard Kreider and James Claytor, 1929. Other resident ministers were: Robert Edgecomb, Abraham Ritchie, Henry Troxel, Kalen Heckman, John Wyne, Jacob Ulrey, Phillip Souders, Amos Leedy, R. E. Burger, Daniel Mohler, Alonzo Leslie, Heister Landes and



LA PLACE CHURCH

L. F. Turner. Elders who have had oversight of the Okaw church were: John Metzger, Jacob Waggoner, Jacob Ulrey, John Arnold, George Miller, W. T. Heckman and Roy Teach. One student pastor, Jacob Dick, and four full-time pastors have served this church: Wayne Carr, L. M. Baldwin, Ira Hiatt, and Eldo Henricks, the present pastor.

The aid society was organized about 1894, and as the women's work, with the different departments, in 1939. They have done much sewing and canning for relief. The young people have weekly meetings with programs and social activities.

A farm of one hundred fifty acres was donated by Brother George Ulrey to the General Mission Board. The men's organization of the Okaw church have farmed it since 1946. The farm of Lester Beery is a collecting center for heifers for relief.

Two missionaries from the Okaw church have served on the India field: Nora Arnold Lichty and J. Elmer Waggoner.

The church changed its name to La Place in 1946.

SHELBY COUNTY (1866)

Of a church at Shelbyville in Shelby County we have but meager records. Brother J. W. Beer lived at Shelbyville and held regular services there in 1865, 1866, and 1867. He reported the following in the *Christian Family Companion*, May 1, 1866:

Please send back numbers of the "Companion" to brother Benjamin Brickles, Shelbyville, Shelby county, Illinois. Brother Brickles is a colored man. He was a slave in Tennessee A little over a year ago he became interested in our meetings and attended regularly On Sunday, May 28th, 1865, he was baptized by your humble servant in the Okaw river at Shelbyville.

The Shelby County branch was represented at the district meeting of 1866 by Thomas Graham, who brought four queries. One of the interesting queries considered by that district meeting was concerning the attitude of visiting members toward a colored brother. This query in all probability came from Shelby County.

The interest of J. W. Beer in the work of the church is shown by his articles written for the *Companion* and by his home mission tour among a number of churches in Illinois and Missouri. Of this tour he wrote: ". . . I left home on the 11th of January to visit some of the churches in the Northwest, and I reached home safely again on the 12th of February. . . ." He had preached in Christian, Caldwell and Clinton counties in Missouri, and in Adams and Pike counties in Illinois.

LA MOTTE PRAIRIE (1868—)

Several Brethren moved to Crawford County, Illinois, from Darke and Montgomery counties in Ohio in the year 1865, followed a year or two later by others from these

same counties. In the autumn of 1868 Elders John Fitz and James R. Gish, appointed by the district meeting, met with the members in the Moore schoolhouse and effected a church organization. The charter members, all having certificates of membership, were: Jacob Swinger and wife, Henry Stoner and wife, J. P. Horning and wife, John Martin (deacon) and wife, and Absolom Hyre (a minister in the second degree) and wife. In that same year J. P. Horning was elected to the ministry and Isaac Horning was elected deacon. In a barn of the locality the first love feast was held in 1868.

Regular meetings were held in the Moore schoolhouse until 1871, when the Oak Grove church was built on ground donated to the community for church purposes, and all denominations were invited to use it. The Brethren alternated with other denominations and with others held a union Sunday school for many years.

The selection of leaders is related in an early account of the La Motte Prairie church written by H. R. King for the *Primitive Christian*, April 4, 1876: "At our love feast in 1873, a choice was held for one minister and two deacons. The lot fell upon Brother Jacob Swinger for the ministry, and Brothers Daniel and Henry Stoner, deacons; yet our ministerial force is not adequate."

In the *Pilgrim*, March 2, 1874, Elder J. H. Moore gave an account of his visit to the La Motte Prairie church:

At this place we found forty members, the most of them living close together. There are something like twenty-four members living in a square of not over two miles square The ministers here are doing good work, but they need help The whole plain lies in sight of the Wabash river, and has an abundance of timber on either side We would like to describe the beautiful sight we saw after we crossed the Wabash and stood on the elevation nearly two hundred feet above the valley below, and took a long look over La Motte Prairie, where we could see nearly every house where the members live, although several miles away.

The next year, 1875, Elder J. H. Moore returned to the La Motte Prairie church and held a series of meetings.¹ Elders John Metzger and Joseph Hendricks were there at the time of the love feast, which was held in a large new barn filled with attentive people; yet, quite a number could not get in and crowded about the door to hear. Three were baptized at that time.²

At a council meeting of the church held on September 24, 1881, it was decided to erect a church building. Jacob Swinger donated one acre from his farm and "Grand-pap" Stoner donated the lumber from his timberland. All the men and boys of the community helped with the building, under the direction of M. S. Seymore, carpenter. On January 28, 1882, the church was dedicated, the services being conducted by Elder David Troxel of Cerro Gordo. Following the dedication, eight were baptized.

In the *Brethren at Work*, May 2, 1882, the organization of a Sunday school was reported by Henry Winger:

At our council meeting, we all agreed to organize a Sunday School Accordingly, we met on the 9th [of April] at 3 P.M., seventy-five in number . . . then elected the writer superintendent; J. J. Smith, assistant; Brother W. W. Horning, secretary; Brother J. F. Bookwalter, assistant; Brother A. F. Mentz, treasurer. Today we had a good school, numbering eighty-six. We meet every Thursday night in Bible School

From the beginning of its organization, this was an "ever-green" Sunday school and there have been but few Sundays when Sunday school and preaching services have not been held.

The work of the La Motte Prairie church has been far reaching and a power for good in its community. Although the membership has been limited in numbers, the church had a peak membership of sixty in 1895; the present membership is between forty and fifty.

¹ *The Pilgrim*, February 9, 1875

² *Brethren at Work*, June 4, 1877



LA MOTTE PRAIRIE CHURCH

The women's work was organized about 1910 and has continued active in relief work and local projects. They have mission study at aid meetings. The men organized in 1947, farmed a field of corn and bought a furnace for the church. The young people have regular Sunday evening meetings.

Ministers elected in this congregation have been: J. P. Horning, 1868; Jacob Swinger, 1873; H. H. Wenger, 1879; J. C. Stoner, 1883; C. W. Metz, 1894; William Swinger, 1896; Oliver Dearing, 1932; Ausby Swinger, 1933.

The following elders have had charge of the church: Absalom Hyre, 1868-1878; Joseph Hendricks, 1878-1881; David Troxel, 1881-1893; J. C. Stoner, 1893-1924; W. T. Heckman, 1924-1935; Dolar C. Ritchey, 1935-1944; Dow A. Ridgely, 1944-1947; and Glenn Carr, 1947-1949.

Most of the preaching and pastoral work has been done by the elders-in-charge. Durwood Hayes, of Allison Prairie, is the present pastor.

VERMILLION—CORNELL
(1868-1904)

The Vermillion church, located in Livingston County, was organized in the fall of 1868, as reported by S. W. Swihart in the *Primitive Christian*, July 25, 1876, and was listed among the churches of Southern Illinois in the district meeting minutes of 1869. In 1874 George Gish of Roanoke held three meetings in a schoolhouse near Chenoa and mentioned only a few scattered members living in that vicinity, as the main body of the congregation was located some twelve miles north of Chenoa, on the Vermillion River. In the *Pilgrim*, February 7, 1874, Brother G. W. Gish wrote of one deacon in this church, Brother Climsman, who, some twenty years before that time, had migrated from Germany to Pennsylvania, where he and his wife were baptized by the Brethren. G. W. Gish preached at three other places: in the Georgetown schoolhouse; at the place four miles north of Cornell; and at the home of John Garver, twelve miles north of Cornell.

The Vermillion church was in a prosperous condition, working in harmony, in 1876, when J. W. Swihart held meetings at the Baker Run schoolhouse near Cornell. At that place the Vermillion church held a council meeting. An account written by J. W. Gephart appeared in the *Primitive Christian and Pilgrim* of July 24, 1877; it said: "At this time we number forty-seven. We have two ministers and three deacons. Between April 1st, 1876 and April 1st, 1877 we baptized six." Nine were added to the church in June 1877; on July 15 four more were baptized. In the *Brethren at Work*, February 7, 1878, Ella Heckman reported: "Our church is in a prosperous condition at present. We have about sixty members . . ." Elder John Metzger preached a series of meetings in the Vermillion church, ending April 12, 1878; then Mobry and Holsinger of Will County, Illinois,

stayed one week longer in meetings with three additions to the church. Because the membership was living so scattered, the Vermillion territory was divided in 1878; the south part was called the Pike Creek church and the north part retained the name, Vermillion.

There is an account in the *Brethren at Work*, February 20, 1879, of five meetings held by Kalen Heckman, at which three requested baptism. “. . . After services we went to the waterside . . . the brethren having cut the ice open, which was about fifteen inches thick, and three persons were buried with Christ in baptism”

At a council meeting held on March 21, 1879, “the church set apart one brother for the word and one for deacon.” A. Groom was the minister chosen and D. Heckman the deacon, according to the report in the *Brethren at Work*, April 10, 1879. In that same year the Vermillion church bought a suitable site for building a meetinghouse and through the *Primitive Christian and Pilgrim* made an appeal to the brotherhood for building funds. A few years later they had secured help to the amount of two hundred dollars and, in 1883, a church house was built in the town of Cornell. This new church was dedicated on December 2, 1883; Elder M. J. McClure of Morrisonville preached, assisted by George Gish and Thomas Keiser of Woodford County. On that occasion the new building, which could seat three hundred, was entirely filled and many could not find room inside.

This was a growing organization with additions to the church at a number of different times in 1884; also, a Sunday school was organized during that year. But they had difficulties, too. In 1887 P. W. Stuckman wrote in the *Gospel Messenger* of October 25: “I began a series of meetings, which appeared to me like midnight at the brook Jabbok, but the day broke and nine souls were added to the church.”

In 1888 the Vermillion church had one minister, forty-five members, eight baptized, and an average attendance of forty-five at Sunday school. The last appearance of the name, Vermillion, with the list of churches in Southern Illinois was in the district meeting minutes of 1890, with Elder D. Mast in charge at that time. It seems that the name of the Vermillion church was changed to Cornell about that time, for the name, Cornell, is listed in 1892 with D. Mast as elder, followed by Menno Stauffer as elder after 1893. A love feast was held on September 26, 1895, "the first meeting of the kind ever held in the little village of Cornell," when about forty-five communed and Brethren Lyon, C. S. Holsinger and W. T. Keiser were present.¹ In 1894 the number of members listed for the Cornell church was forty-five. The last report, in 1904, indicated a disorganization at about that date, for M. Flory and J. C. Stoner were sent to the Cornell church as a committee by the district meeting of that year.

CUMBERLAND COUNTY (1869-1889)

We are certain that there were Brethren settlers in Cumberland County, Illinois, before 1865, as David Rothrock wrote for the *Christian Family Companion* of August 22, 1865, and announced the appointment of a love feast with the Brethren in Cumberland County on the first Sunday of October, to be held two miles north of Hazel Dell and six miles west of Casey. A number of times, through correspondence in the *Companion*, the *Pilgrim*, and the *Primitive Christian*, David Rothrock and others presented the needs of the members living in Cumberland County, who were for many years without a minister. One such appeal appeared in the *Christian Family Companion*, February 26, 1867:

¹ The *Gospel Messenger*, October 13, 1885

. . . We learn that many brethren have moved to the far west and are without a shepherd; we can say the same. We live in Illinois; our main speakers live about forty-five miles from here; we have had no meetings since August. There are only five members in our country near us; there are three about fifteen miles from here. Though few in number, we would like a speaker. There is a wide field here for labor We wish you could through the *Companion* induce some speaker, in the English language, to settle among us. As added inducements for more Brethren settlers, mention is made of the "good country," a convenient railroad and a second under contemplation.

Mention of the Cumberland County church first appeared in the district meeting minutes of 1869, but without representation. Several years following (1870, 1874, 1875 and 1879), the church was represented by letter; but only once, in 1880, was a personal delegate sent; he was D. Rothrock.

From the meager available accounts of the Cumberland County church the following information is gleaned: A meeting was held in 1871 by Michael Forney of Richland County; a member from the Cumberland County church attended the Annual Meeting of 1874 and lamented the lack of Brethren services at Hazel Dell; also the visit of Ananias Hensel, of Indiana, in the spring of 1876, when he preached six sermons at three different places in the county. In August of 1876, a two-day love feast was appointed to be held in the home of Brother James McBride.

During the years 1875-1878 the small group of members was diminished by the loss of five of their older members by death, including their elder, Absalom Hyre, who was regarded as a father by those under his care. This small isolated congregation nevertheless showed a growth in numbers, from five in 1867 to twelve in 1875, and the census report of members records a total membership of thirty-one in 1881. The name of the Cumberland County church appears on the district meeting minutes until 1889.

SALEM
(1869-1917)

The first Brethren in Marion County came from Ohio in about 1867 and with their families settled about five miles east of Salem. Meetings were held in the homes of members and in 1868 a communion meeting was held in the barn owned by Henry Harshberger. There is record of another communion one year later. The organization of the Salem church was fully effected by William Elam and John Shively in 1869. Elder Joseph Cripe was given charge of the church. The following were charter members: Elder Joseph Cripe and wife, Henry Harshberger and wife, David Shanafelt and wife, Elizabeth Cripe, A. C. Shanafelt, Daniel Neher and wife, and Andrew Neher and wife. Other members among the very early settlers in this community were: Elder Jacob Ulrey and wife, Jacob D. Ulrey, wife and family of three, Daniel Foutz and wife, Mrs. Daniel Wagner and family, and the Blickenstaffs. At the time of organization, Henry Harshberger and Andrew Neher were elected ministers.

In 1872 there were thirty-six members, and regular meetings were held in schoolhouses and at other points. A report in the *Pilgrim*, September 22, 1874, lists two elders, Jacob Neher and Jacob Ulrey; two ministers, Henry Harshberger and Andrew Neher; and two deacons, David Shanafelt and John F. Neher. Nine had been added to the church during that year, making a total of some forty members.

A union Sunday school was organized in the Huff schoolhouse in the summer of 1875, but after a church building was erected and Sunday school conducted in the church, only church members were elected as officers. As reported by J. F. Neher in the *Brethren at Work*, January 24, 1878, a meetinghouse was built in 1877 at a location five miles

southeast of Salem: "All work was done by brethren and others, free of charge."

John Metzger wrote in the *Brethren at Work*, January 15, 1878:

They [the members] raised what money they were obliged to have to get the material, and brought it all together on the ground. Two of the brethren laid off the frame and all the rest would go and work day by day until the house was finished. They built that house in the shortest time and with less money than any house I have known built by the brethren.

About that time meetings were held by Joseph Hendricks. Robert Atchison was then a minister in the Salem congregation. Two more ministers were elected in 1881: J. F. Neher and Daniel Ulrey; Leonard Wolfe was elected in 1882. Elder John Metzger, in correspondence appearing in the *Gospel Messenger* of November 4, 1884, wrote that Daniel Ulrey was advanced in the ministry and three deacons were elected: David Cripps, Daniel Pippinger, and Jacob Ulrey. Prayer meetings were held in the church about 1885; also they were held in homes, as the members were scattered and it was inconvenient for all to come to one place.

About 1892 the members living west of Salem called for a division of territory, as they wished to build a meetinghouse in that section. Accordingly, a division was made. The west part, with a membership of about twenty-five, retained the original name; the east part was called Romine, although they retained the original church building, which was located in their section of the territory. As all of the official board resided in the Romine territory, an election was conducted in the Salem congregation by Elders Menno Stauffer and M. J. McClure. Elder Stauffer was chosen overseer.

A meetinghouse was built west of Salem and dedicated by D. B. Gibson on February 19, 1893. Following

Menno Stauffer, elders-in-charge of this congregation were: John Harshberger, Michael Flory, J. H. Baker, J. W. Harshberger, George Miller, and Henry Lilligh. The membership numbered twenty-five and carried on until 1917. Then, diminished in numbers and with transportation no longer so great a problem, they petitioned district meeting for disorganization. Henry Lilligh and Dow Ridgely, as the district meeting committee, met with the members on November 22, 1917, to effect the disorganization, and nine letters of transfer were granted to the members. A month later the house and fixtures were sold at public auction.

BEAR CREEK, Christian County (1870-1912)

The Bear Creek church, Christian County, formerly a part of the Otter Creek church, was organized on September 24, 1870, under the direction of Elders Isaac Neff and John Crist. There were twelve members—six brethren and six sisters. On the day of organization Abraham S. Leer was elected to the ministry and A. D. Stutsman to the office of deacon; John Crist was given oversight of the church.

A report from Bear Creek in the *Pilgrim* of September 22, 1874, tells of the congregation of forty-seven members, three speakers and three deacons, two recent additions to the church, and preaching every Lord's Day which was generally well attended. The church decided to hold a love feast, planning a two-day meeting to be held at the home of Brother Amos Stutsman, three and a half miles east of Morrisonville, on the twenty-sixth and twenty-seventh of September.

The following year, William Brunk in a lengthy correspondence to the *Pilgrim* of November 1875, wrote of twenty-four members added to the church by baptism dur-

ing the autumn. He added a detailed report of strong sermons by Brother J. W. Stein, preached to crowds in two different schoolhouses in the vicinity of Morrisonville and in the town. Several families moved out about this time, including that of Brother Henry Brubaker, an able minister. This left the ministry unable to fill all the calls for preaching.

Two series of meetings were held in 1877, one in January by B. B. Whitmer in the Evergreen schoolhouse and the other in the autumn by Brethren John Metzger and Joseph Hendricks. The result was the addition of thirty-nine during the year. The church keenly felt the loss of Brother Nicholas Brubaker, an able minister, who died in March 1878; however, five additions were reported for the year, bringing the membership to a total of eighty-two. Plans were made for purchasing a meetinghouse from the Campbellites—plans which were realized in 1879. Encouraged by having a place of worship in the town of Palmer on the T. W. & W. Railroad, the church invited visiting ministers to stop there and preach. In the *Primitive Christian and Pilgrim*, January 7, 1879, A. S. Leer wrote:

In number forty-five of the present volume, page 712, you say you are informed that the Bear Creek church in Illinois has identified itself with the Congregational Brethren, with the view of practicing the word of the Lord more closely. And as I have been written to in regard to it, by brethren wanting to know whether it is correct, I make this explanation: Bear Creek church of Christian County, Illinois stands identified with the Church of the Brethren as it always did.

In 1883 M. J. McClure wrote in the *Brethren at Work* of March 27 that the Bear Creek church had been having reverses in the loss of nearly half of her members by emigration, and of the presiding elder, A. S. Leer, by death.

The name, Bear Creek, appears in the minutes of district meeting until 1911, when the church requested dis-

organization. The committee sent by district meeting met in the home of Eli Coy in Morrisonville on September 20, 1912, when the church was disorganized and letters of transfer were granted to the membership.

Elders who had charge of the Bear Creek church were: John Crist, John Metzger, Abram Peters, A. S. Leer, Owen Peters, M. J. McClure, M. Flory, S. S. Miller, S. W. Garber, W. H. Shull and B. F. Filbrun.

EDGAR COUNTY

(1871-1877)

A number of Brethren families from Dauphin County, Pennsylvania, moved near Paris, Illinois, in Edgar County. These members were organized as a church in 1871. The first official body was composed of Jacob Miller, a minister, and J. C. Demy, a deacon. John Metzger was chosen elder-in-charge.

Brother George Long, in an article entitled "A Visit to Edgar County, Illinois," written for the *Christian Family Companion*, July 18, 1871, reported three families of Brethren living near Paris, where he held meetings in a school-house. A part of his report follows:

Brother William Hartzler's appeal in the *Christian Family Companion* caused us to make a trip to find those brethren who moved from Pennsylvania and settled in Edgar County, Ill. So we left home on Monday morning, June 12th, took the cars at Lima for Fort Wayne, thence on the Wabash Valley Railroad for Danville, Illinois Arrived at Danville at 11 o'clock. To our great disappointment the new railroad south for Paris was only staked out, instead of cars running; so we took a good safe old way for it—on foot thirty-six miles to Paris; arrived there on Wednesday, about 11 o'clock. Went to the postoffice and made inquiry for Philip Siders and George Hess. I was told that Philip Siders lived eleven miles northeast and Hess some nine miles Going to different places, we met a woman in a store who told us that as soon as her husband came in, they would start with a team and could take us to Kline's who could tell us where to find them

Got to Brother Kline's about 3 o'clock and talked a few minutes; then he started out to have meeting that evening, and to our surprise gathered nearly a school house full. We spoke to these people the best we could . . . also the next evening

Then Brother Long urged any Brethren in that locality to visit these members, and especially urged traveling ministers to stop and preach for them. He added directions: "George Hess lives seven miles nearly due south of Vermilion station, west of Terre Haute; Philip Siders, four miles north and one mile east of Paris—both in Edgar County."

In this congregation two ministers were elected: J. C. Demy in 1873 and Philip Siders in 1874.

The Edgar County church was represented at district meeting in 1873 by J. C. Demy and George Hess; the last representation, in 1875, was by letter. Then most of the members moved away and the church was disorganized, but we have no record of the exact date.

MULBERRY GROVE (1876)

When the Hurricane Creek church territory was divided in 1875 the northern part was given the name, Mulberry Grove. A meetinghouse had been built in 1874, four and a half miles northwest of the town of Mulberry Grove, near which most of the members were living. At the time of the organization of the Mulberry Grove church, William Elam was elder-in-charge and William Mahle was a minister. Later, other ministers were elected: Henry Lilligh in 1877, George Stauffer in 1890, and Elmer J. Stauffer in 1906. After William Elam, a number of elders were in charge of the church: Daniel Vaniman, John Goodman, John Wise, D. B. Gibson, D. B. Sturgis, Henry Lilligh and M. L. Hahn.

In 1905 a church house was built in the town of Mulberry Grove by J. P. Lilligh at his own expense. This house

was dedicated on December 3, 1905, by Elder J. W. Lear. At that time the church of forty members had two meetinghouses and conducted two Sunday schools. Elder C. M. Yearout was secured as pastor and elder-in-charge, but remained there only a short time. Other elders-in-charge were: M. Flory, I. D. Heckman, and N. H. Miller.

Then for several years the church was not represented at district meeting, and in 1939 a petition signed by fifteen members came to district meeting, asking for disorganization; the request was granted and the work of disorganization carried out. Later, a meeting was called for and the matter of disorganization was reconsidered. The church unanimously decided to continue as an organization and D. J. Blickenstaff was chosen elder-in-charge. But little progress was made by the few members. The church houses were disposed of and the active members are worshipping and working with the Hurricane Creek church, of which they were originally a part.

PLEASANT HILL

(1876-1912)

The Pleasant Hill church with a membership of about one hundred was the central part of the Otter Creek church territory when the division was made in 1876. A schoolhouse of the same name was near by, in which meetings and even funerals were held before the church house was built. The Pleasant Hill church house was erected in 1867 at a place three miles southwest of Virden, on a three-and-a-half-acre plot, part of which was laid out for a cemetery. A rock-walled pool was made near the church for baptismal purposes. Elders John Metzger and David Frantz were present at the organization; the resident ministers were C. C. Gibson, J. W. Harshbarger and Jonathan Brubaker.

John Neher wrote for the *Primitive Christian* of February 22, 1867:

. . . I give a little news from Otter Creek church, Macoupin Co., Ill. Brethren Martin Meyers and Samuel Peck from Carroll County, Ill. visited our church. They arrived here on Jan. 29th, and had their first meeting on the same day, Saturday, at 11 o'clock; and we continued day and night for one week, and two more night meetings, Saturday and Sunday nights. They had sixteen meetings in all, and all at the Pleasant Hill meeting house. Eleven persons . . . were baptized in the pool near by the meeting-house, after taking the ice off the water. Two were baptized on Monday, four on Wednesday and after that some every meeting until Friday night. Four were baptized in the night, after meetings, it being the request of the applicants; having moonlight and four inches of snow on the ground made it quite light. When the meeting commenced it was not expected to continue so long as it did; but the interest manifested in the meeting, and also on Wednesday night after the services had commenced old Brother John Metzger walked into the meetinghouse and took his seat behind the table, and stayed with us until Friday evening The meetings were well attended considering the rough roads and cold weather most of the time . . .

A Sunday school was organized in 1880. The membership in 1890 was one hundred thirteen. We have the following correspondence in the *Gospel Messenger* of November 25, 1890:

In looking at the history of this church for the past eight years, we see constant changes in its membership. Many have been dismissed by letter, exceeding in number those who now hold their membership here. The Sunday School work here has been steadily growing in interest, especially among the young. Average attendance during the last year was eighty-two. During the last year the social meetings have been well sustained by all. This has given us a wide field of culture in gospel faith and practice.

A series of meetings held in November 1894 by I. Bennett Trout resulted in twenty-nine baptisms, and in 1895 a report stated that the Sunday school and the social meetings continued with unabated interest.

In this growing congregation the membership had reached nearly two hundred fifty in 1912. A large per cent of the members were living in the towns of Virden and Girard; so it seemed better to have a congregation in each

of these two towns. This was mutually agreed upon and was effected on July 29, 1912.

Ministers elected in the Pleasant Hill church were: J. H. Brubaker, 1887; James Wirt, 1892; I. J. Harshbarger, 1893; E. H. Brubaker, 1906. The following were elders-in-charge: Isaac Neff, J. W. Harshbarger, M. J. McClure, J. H. Brubaker, and W. H. Shull.

MACOUPIN CREEK (1876-1923)

Macoupin Creek was the east part of the Sugar Creek church when the division was made in 1876. A large part of the fifty-nine members, including one minister, Daniel Vaniman, and four deacons, lived in Montgomery County, about six miles southeast of Girard. The church name, Macoupin Creek, was chosen at the first council meeting, which was held at the Lake schoolhouse on April 29, 1876.

The first communion was held in the barn of Cassius J. Brown, June 16-17, 1876, at which Elders John Metzger and David Frantz were present. An election was held for a minister and a deacon. The result being a tie for minister, the church unanimously decided to accept both Samuel F. Brubaker and Daniel Studebaker; they were installed into the ministry and Samuel Stutsman into the office of deacon.

John Heckman of Polo, Illinois, who spent part of his boyhood in the Pleasant Hill community, was present at the first love feast held in the Macoupin Creek church in 1876. His account of an election of ministers follows:

On Saturday afternoon an election for a minister and deacon was going on. The ministers present were Johnny Metzger and David Frantz. Metzger drove down from Cerro Gordo with his white ponies. I remember David Frantz mostly by his slow speech, but Johnny Metzger I remember most vividly for his unique expressions and fervor of spirit. He stood erect, of medium height, full chested, kindly face, large nose, thin graying beard with thin,

slightly gray hair reaching somewhat short of his coat collar. He wore a black cutaway frock coat with band collar which lay flat and unbuttoned on his chest. His slightly trembly voice was clear and sympathetic.

During the afternoon the election was conducted for the minister and deacon in the usual manner. About mid-afternoon the members were called together by singing. Instead of being out playing with the other boys . . . I was on the barn floor to hear who was elected. I knew most of the brethren and wondered whom it would "hit." Brother Metzger said there was a tie-vote for minister He asked the members to stand and asked each one directly if he or she were agreed to accept the two. On answering, they took their seats. The vote was unanimous in favor. Before the names were announced, extended instructions were given . . . then the names of the brethren were announced. After some delay and hesitancy, even considerable pleading and urging, the brethren and their wives were arranged standing before Brother Metzger. Then all the members went around and received them with the right hand of fellowship and the salutation, with many words of sympathy and eyes filled with tears The two ministers elected were Samuel F. Brubaker and Daniel B. Studebaker; Samuel Stutsman was the deacon.

As they had no meetinghouse, services were held in schoolhouses and a Sunday school was organized at the Lake schoolhouse in 1879. In 1881 a church house was built on the Brubaker farm, about six miles southeast of Girard; the first love feast held in it was on October 6, 1881.

The church treasury, general and home mission work were supported by liberal contributions made at council meetings. The Macoupin Creek church had an active Christian Workers' meeting as early as 1906.

Ministers elected in this congregation were: G. W. Gibson, 1883; I. M. Gibson, 1886; J. M. Masterson, 1897; J. W. Lear, 1899.

Daniel Vaniman was elder-in-charge from the time of organization until 1888, when he moved to Kansas. Other elders have been: M. J. McClure, M. Flory, D. B. Gibson, I. J. Harshbarger, I. H. Crist, and J. A. Smeltzer.

The church unanimously requested the district meeting of 1923 for disorganization; the request was granted and

the membership was transferred to the Girard congregation. The church property was disposed of and the proceeds were given to the General Mission Board.

The largest membership was one hundred four, in 1894.

WEST OTTER CREEK (1876-1912)

The Otter Creek church, in 1870, was divided into two parts; the east part was called Bear Creek and the west part Sugar Creek. By 1876 the Sugar Creek congregation had grown inconveniently large and was divided into three parts. The east part was named Macoupin Creek; the central part was called Pleasant Hill; the name of the west part was changed from Otter Creek to West Otter Creek, with its house of worship about six miles southwest of Virden. The membership numbered one hundred, among which were three ministers, D. R. C. Nead, Javan Gibson and David Vaniman. At the time of organization, D. R. C. Nead was ordained elder and given charge of the West Otter Creek church.

The next year, 1877, D. B. Gibson held an interesting meeting with the house well filled at each service. Thirteen were baptized. His account of these meetings was published in the *Brethren at Work* of March 13, 1879.

. . . I held a series of meetings in the West Otter Creek congregation, my old home church. Memory ran over a period of thirty-three years. When my father located in the neighborhood of the meeting-house, not a member but he and mother lived nearer than eight miles. Perhaps the number of members in Morgan, Sangamon, and Macoupin counties were, in all, eighteen to twenty-five . . . Now, by immigration and conversion there are not less than five hundred members. They are divided into four districts, if I mistake not. Here I used the Bible that was used by my father. Old Brother John Beanblossom, J. Heckman, and John Crist are all now sleeping the long last sleep . . . I labored here during the holidays, and although the weather was very cold, the congrega-

tions were large and the interest good. Some came out and were baptized, though the ice was thick and the water cold

There was an active Sunday school which began in 1878.

Brother Daniel Vaniman held a series of meetings in the Hazelgreen schoolhouse in 1882. In that year, D. R. C. Nead died and John Harshbarger was chosen elder, serving until November 12, 1883, when Javan Gibson was ordained elder and given charge of the church. In 1890 the district meeting of Southern Illinois was held there and T. D. Lyon reported it as being the largest meeting of the kind he had ever attended and one of the best.¹

This congregation continued under the leadership of Elders Solomon Bucklew, J. H. Baker, and I. J. Harshbarger. In 1907 W. H. Shull was ordained and made elder-in-charge of the church; he retained this position until the church was disorganized in 1912, the membership at that time being transferred to the Virden congregation. The church house and its furnishings were sold, netting \$420.00, which was given to the Virden church building committee.

During the years the following ministers were elected in this church: Javan Gibson, 1876; David Vaniman, 1876; Charles C. Gibson, 1881; Ira E. Brubaker, 1893; W. H. Shull, 1901.

BEAR CREEK, Hancock County (—1877)

The name of the Bear Creek church in Hancock County appears but once among the list of churches—in the district meeting minutes of 1877. Of the church there, Daniel Vaniman wrote in the *Brethren at Work* of December 20, 1877:

Bro. Strickler and I went to Hancock Co., where there had once been a church fully organized, but since left in a helpless condition. Here we began a series of meetings in the town hall, to

¹ *Gospel Messenger*, November 11, 1890

be met again in a few days by brethren Hendricks and Wolfe to labor with this church, as instructed by District Meeting. Met most of the members here in council. Were pained to learn from them that most of them had rallied around a standard held up to them by an expelled minister who had come among them, and had communed with him and were satisfied with what they had done, trusting in vain in the hope of serving God more acceptably out of the church than in it, and therefore desired to be no longer considered members of the Church of the Brethren. Eleven of them met us in council, and all expressed themselves thus, except one sister, who seemed more than ever confirmed in the good old way of serving the Lord in the Brethren's church, instead of out of it.

Reference is made to the same in the account of the Bear Creek, Christian County, church, as the two churches with the name of Bear Creek had been confused.

There were scattered members in Hancock County even later, as reported from the Mill Creek church by H. W. Strickler in the *Brethren at Work* of September 28, 1880: "We are scattered over a large part of four counties: Pike, Brown, Hancock, and Adams."

PIKE CREEK—CHENOA (1878-1897)

The Pike Creek church was formerly a part of the Vermillion church, which in 1878 "saw fit to divide this congregation into two branches on account of the membership living so scattered. The south end is now called Pike Creek church, having one speaker and two deacons." The above was reported by N. S. Dale in the *Brethren at Work*, November 28, 1878. The Pike Creek church then numbered twenty-seven members. A communion meeting was held at the home of William Lehman, two miles north and one mile west of Chenoa. At that same place they held a council meeting on March 15, 1879, and elected Frederick Shultz to the ministry; he was "installed into his office by G. W. Gish in English and repeated in German by D. Mast," as

reported by T. D. Lyon in the *Brethren at Work* of April 10, 1879.

It was when the members of the Pike Creek church began to move into Chenoa that there was talk of building a church in this town. In the *Gospel Messenger*, October 25, 1887, P. W. Stuckman wrote that there was not one member in Chenoa; but there must have been considerable growing sentiment toward a church in the town, for in 1888 the district mission treasurer's report showed that a contribution of three hundred fifty dollars was made for the building of a church house in Chenoa. In 1889 there was a representation of Chenoa at the district meeting, reporting two ministers, seventeen members, and Elder T. D. Lyon in charge; in 1890 there was one baptism, and twenty-one members were reported. M. J. McClure held a series of meetings in Chenoa in September of 1890 and a communion was held on the twenty-fifth of that month—“. . . the first communion ever held in the city of Chenoa . . .,” according to an account in the *Gospel Messenger*, October 21, 1890.

The name, Pike Creek, appears in the list of churches in the district meeting minutes until 1890, when the name, Chenoa, appears in the alphabetical list under the letter *P*, taking the place of Pike Creek. The Chenoa church is listed until 1897. Elder T. D. Lyon was elder from 1888 to 1897, with the highest number of members reported as twenty-one.

BLUE RIDGE (1878-1928)

The Blue Ridge church was located near the town of Mansfield, in the extreme northeastern part of Piatt County, with part of the church district in Champaign County. In the *Brethren at Work*, June 13, 1878, is an article entitled "Another Candlestick," written by T. D. Lyon:

May 3rd, had been appointed for organizing a church in Brother Barnhart's neighborhood, Piatt County, Illinois, and according to appointment I met Brother John Metzger at the house of John Barnhart. By ten o'clock the brethren and sisters had come together and proceeded to hold a choice for deacon, which choice fell upon Brother John Horsh, who accepted the position and was duly installed into office. The organization stands as follows: John Barnhart, minister in the second degree; Christian Barnhart, in the first degree; John Horsh, deacon. This congregation is to be known as the Blue Ridge church, Piatt County, Illinois.

The ten charter members were: Elder John and Artie Barnhart, Christian and Betty Barnhart, John and Anna Hershy, Daniel and Barbara Hershy, Christian and Annette Gish. Elder T. D. Lyon was chosen overseer of the church.

The membership was small and very much scattered, a drawback to the growth and progress of the church at that place.¹ However, in May of 1880 the Sunday school was organized and prospered. The first church house was four miles east of the county line bordering Champaign County, but later was abandoned when the members began locating in Mansfield; in 1883 a church house was built in Mansfield.

Love feasts of almost every year are reported in the church paper, and occasionally a successful series of meetings, as that of November 1887, with eighteen additions to the church. The membership grew to the number of ninety-five, in 1892. The church was quite active during the ministry of T. A. Robinson, who worked there from 1900 to 1907; he was especially successful in his work with the young people, interesting them in the Bible study class and in the Sunday school.

Through members moving away and through other losses, the membership decreased in number until 1928, when they petitioned district meeting for disorganization. The request was granted.

The following elders had charge of the Blue Ridge

¹ *Primitive Christian and Pilgrim*, November 18, 1879

church: T. D. Lyon, John Barnhart, D. B. Gibson, S. Heitz, S. G. Nickey and W. T. Heckman. Ministers elected were: John F. Burton in 1906 and J. C. Lightcap at a later date.

CAMP CREEK (1879—)

When the territory of the Bushnell church was divided in 1879, the south part was called Camp Creek. It had a membership of thirty-five. A. G. Black was the elder-in-charge; John L. Meyers was a resident minister, and three ministers were elected: Henry C. Lucas in 1879, S. S. Hummer in 1890, and Sherman Stuckey in 1893.

The location of the Camp Creek church house was six miles south of Colchester, in McDonough County.

Under the date of October 26, 1882, D. B. Gibson wrote in the *Brethren at Work* of good meetings in the Camp Creek church. The new meetinghouse was dedicated on October 15; a communion meeting was held on October 23, and at that time John L. Meyers was ordained to the eldership. The meetings were extraordinarily well attended and, at times, the large new church house did not hold half the people. Ten were baptized, varying in ages from fourteen to eighty-five.

In the year 1883 John Meyers was the only minister and the elder of the Camp Creek church, with five regular preaching appointments to fill. One of these places was the New Hope church, where the Brethren preached once every four weeks. In 1884 the church organized a missionary board.

S. S. Hummer of the Camp Creek church wrote in the *Gospel Messenger* of November 15, 1887: ". . . We enjoyed a visit from our old and respected Brother John Wolfe accompanied by his wife and daughter. Brother John is as

zealous as ever though past his three score and ten. He is a son of Brother George Wolfe, one of the ablest pioneer ministers of Illinois."

In October of the next year, the same correspondent wrote of an unusual baptismal service:

. . . We have had recently, one addition to the church under somewhat peculiar circumstances. A young man from Colchester, having been under conviction for some time, said he could not eat nor sleep He drove to Elder J. L. Meyers' and demanded baptism at once. This was in the evening or at night, and Bro. Meyers was going away the next morning He was apprehensive of being censured by the church if he complied with the request, but the young man was firm and insisted on being baptized that night So, finally, Bro. Meyers consented to perform the rite, after required formalities had been complied with"

About 1890 the Camp Creek church had sixteen additions to the membership and the future looked bright for the church, then under the leadership of Elder D. B. Gibson. A report of a quarterly council and the "annual visit,"



CAMP CREEK CHURCH

which appeared in the *Gospel Messenger* for August 12, 1890, follows, a report which was very typical of Brethren activities in those days:

Our quarterly council-meeting, held July 26, passed off very pleasantly, and with good attendance, nearly all the members being present. Previous to the meeting, the annual visit was made and reported to the meeting. Not a single case of dissatisfaction was found in all the visit. All expressed themselves as being in love and union, and desirous of continuing in the service of our Master

The following elders have served this church: A. G. Black, John L. Meyers, John Pool, D. B. Gibson, C. Fitz, J. H. Baker, D. M. Brubaker, M. L. Hahn, Granville Nevinger, C. A. Gruber, C. Walters, A. H. Lind, D. E. Eshelman, I. J. Gibson, Charles Dumond, and D. B. Cave.

The maximum membership was sixty-five in 1885; at present (1948) twenty-nine. Clinton Kessler was pastor in 1947-1948.

SPRING RUN (1879-1899; 1906-1927)

Spring Run was the northern part of the Bushnell church when a division was made in 1879. The first ministers were A. G. Black and John Pool, Jr. A. G. Black, the first elder, served from the time of organization until 1882; John Pool was elder for the next ten years, followed by Solomon Bucklew until 1895; then J. H. Baker served as elder until 1899, when the church was disorganized.

Thomas D. Lyon visited the Spring Run church in 1883; the *Gospel Messenger* of January 8, 1884, carries his account as follows:

. . . my first visit to Spring Run church, Fulton Co., on the 15th of December, 1883. I had quite an interview with Brother John Pool and his wife, who are about seventy-eight years of age, but strong in the faith. Their son, John Pool, the resident minister of the Spring Run church, and Sister Amanda, his wife, occupy quite

a conspicuous place in the hearts of the people, who look upon them as their spiritual instructors.

They have quite a prosperous Sunday School that does not freeze out on those bleak prairies, at the approach of winter, superintended by Brother Henry Zuck, a deacon, whose family is a model of Christian decorum. Had six meetings in their commodious meeting-house; the meetings were not very well attended, perhaps on account of the cold weather. The members are scattered over a large territory, and it requires some exertion and self-denial to get together when the weather is inclement. Any effective minister would be welcomed here, either on a visit or to move among them. This is a good country and a good little church

Some preaching was done in Ellisville but most of the services were held in the church two miles west of town. The church house was dedicated November 27, 1889, by D. B. Gibson.

After the church was disorganized by request in 1899, it was retained for several years as a mission point with D. E. Eshelman in charge. On November 9, 1906, the Spring Run church was reorganized with M. L. Hahn as elder and D. E. Eshelman as pastor; the latter received partial support from the church. With but a few members, the church continued with Urias Blough then serving as pastor for four years, followed by Granville Nevinger.

The district meeting minutes list as elders: M. L. Hahn, C. A. Gruber, and C. Walters, who was in charge until 1927. Then the church was disorganized; letters were granted to the few members for transfer elsewhere and the church property was disposed of.

CLEAR CREEK (1879-1886)

Originally a part of the Sugar Creek congregation and territory, the Clear Creek church was organized as a separate congregation in 1879. A record of the organization was reported in the *Brethren at Work*, April 10, 1879, under the signature of Daniel Vaniman.

On Saturday, March 22nd, quite a number of brethren and sisters from various churches met in council with the brethren and sisters in Christian county, Illinois, formerly members of the Sugar Creek congregation. Finding them all in love and union with each other and the members of the Sugar Creek church, it was thought good to organize them into a church, which was accordingly done; after which they held a choice for deacon, the lot falling on brother Thomas Crower Brother Benjamin B. Whitmer was also ordained to the full ministry, and now has full oversight of this church, which they named Clear Creek church. Their membership numbers at present, forty-three, Brother Benjamin being their only minister, with two deacons as help.

The year following the organization, on September 14, 1880, Isaac H. Crist was elected to the ministry with Elder A. S. Leer presiding at the installation. A love feast was held in a tent on the twenty-third of September 1880; four were baptized in the South Fork River. In 1881 the membership census report lists a membership of forty. The name, Clear Creek, appears on the minutes of district meeting until 1886, when Elder M. J. McClure was delegate; but there is no record of representation after that date and no records of disorganization have been found.

LORAINÉ (1880-1901)

In the vicinity of Loraine, some twenty miles north of Liberty, the Mill Creek church held meetings as early as 1875, when Henry Strickler, then living near Loraine, was baptized and elected to the ministry. In 1877 Elders Joseph Hendricks, David Wolfe, Daniel Vaniman and H. W. Strickler conducted a series of meetings at Loraine with some accessions to the church. The first communion meeting ever held by the Brethren in that part of the country was held on June 1, 1878, in the barn of Henry Strickler, with eighteen members communing. Brother John Wolfe reported that meeting in the *Brethren at Work* of June 13, 1878,

and commented on the best of order, "better than I had ever witnessed; the audience being so attentive that not a whisper was heard during the entire evening."

A more detailed description of a communion service of those early times was written by H. W. Strickler for the *Brethren at Work*, May 22 of the following year, 1879. We quote:

Our communion meeting is among the things of the past; and much has been said by anxious seekers and curious minds. According to previous arrangements Brother Daniel Vaniman of Virden, Ill., was sent for . . . also Brother Jacob Brubaker of the same place. They arrived here on Friday evening, the second of May. Brother David Wolfe and I met them at the train and conveyed them to the place of meeting, which was prepared in the writer's barn. By early lamp light quite a congregation had assembled. Brother Daniel delivered an able discourse from Matt. 7: 21.

On the day following, Brother A. G. Black and J. K. Meyers of Macedonia County, and Brother William R. Lierly of Liberty, Adams County, came to our assistance. Saturday evening, long before night, the friends and neighbors began to gather in. Soon the barn, which was 40 by 50 feet, was full and many had to remain outside. After singing a few verses, Brother Meyers took for a text, Heb. 2: 3 He spoke about half an hour after which Brother Vaniman took a reasonable time on the subject.

Sunday morning, at half past ten, the barn was filled and many stood outside. Brother Vaniman preached After preaching, five precious souls came forward and received the regular charge usually given to applicants. Immediately after, we all retired to the beautiful stream, Beaver Creek, where they were buried with Christ in baptism

Sunday evening at half past four o'clock, we gathered around the table once more to commemorate the death and suffering of our Savior. Brother Black addressed the brethren and sisters on self-examination. There were seven at the table who had never before enjoyed the privilege.

It was on December 2, 1880, that a church organization was effected with the presence of Elders Daniel Vaniman and John Metzger, John Wise and John Y. Snively. By unanimous consent, Brother Louis Pittman was elected deacon and installed into office. Brother H. W. Strickler

was ordained to the full ministry and the little flock of fourteen members, now known as the Loraine church, was committed to his care and oversight. This new organization was made up of members from the northern part of Adams County and those in Hancock County. On the evening of the day they were organized, they met in the cellar of the place of meeting for a communion service. Since there was no church house, Brother Strickler set out to build one. The brethren were solicited and three hundred fifty dollars were raised. Three lots were purchased in the village. During the winter months H. W. Strickler with his farm hands quarried and hauled rocks and sand for a foundation. In April 1881 he began building, putting up the entire structure alone. The house when completed cost one thousand, one hundred twenty-five dollars, including lights and seats. On November 16, 1882, the house was dedicated by Elder D. B. Sturgis.

In 1881 a Sunday school was organized and continued throughout the entire year, evergreen. In 1882 the little congregation was strengthened by Brother Robert Atchison's moving into their territory. In 1883 Brother B. H. Strickler was elected to the ministry; also two deacons, B. W. Robertson and James Wade, were elected.

It is of interest that the Loraine church organized a branch of Foreign and Domestic Missionary help in the year 1884.¹ It was in 1878 that Brother I. M. Gibson held a seven-day debate with Elder T. M. Mendon, the representative of the Christian (or Campbellite) Church.

In the Loraine church correspondence in the *Gospel Messenger* of March 18, 1890, appeared the interesting account of an unusual baptism:

At the meeting referred to, friend David Cord felt much convicted. He went home to meditate on what he had heard. The next evening he intended to make application for baptism, but

¹ *Gospel Messenger*, July 8, 1884

suddenly took sick. From that time on he was much under the treatment of the most skilled physicians, and attended carefully by nurses He was determined to be baptized Today, Feb. 27th, we carried him out into the yard where a tank had been prepared for the purpose of performing the rite of baptism. He was then baptized, according to the great commission, in the presence of friends and neighbors. Notwithstanding the sleet and snow that made the day the most disagreeable one of the winter, he stood it nobly. Since the baptism he delights in telling his neighbors of the great joy he now experiences.

Elders who served in the Loraine church were: H. W. Strickler, D. B. Gibson, George W. Cripe, and M. J. McClure. In 1899 the church came under the care of the elders of the district until the membership was absorbed into the Liberty church, of which it was originally a part. It was disorganized in July 1901.

PIGEON CREEK—now OAK GROVE (1881—)

An account of the history of the Pigeon Creek church is included in *Brethren in Northern Illinois and Wisconsin*, as Pigeon Creek was for some time an outpost and mission point of the District of Northern Illinois and Wisconsin.

The first Brethren family to settle in the vicinity of Pigeon Creek was that of Isaac Carter and wife of North Carolina, who located about seven miles south of Lacon in Marshall County. The District of Northern Illinois and Wisconsin was concerned with mission work in that locality and arranged for ministers to preach there at various times; the district meeting of 1877 arranged for Lemuel Hillery to spend one year in the work there. During that time fourteen were baptized. H. C. Long reported in the *Brethren at Work* of May 23, 1878, that Hillery was so well liked that all the members requested his return to labor with them, saying that although they had but little money they pledged themselves to do all they could to help in the work. They

had continued the social meetings which he had organized for them.

The following year, C. S. Holsinger sent an interesting report to the *Primitive Christian* of October 28, 1879;

The brethren in the Pigeon Creek congregation met in council the third of this month, to make arrangements for the love feast, which was held the next day. Among other things, they made arrangements to hold preaching at three different points, from fourteen to twenty-one miles apart. The meeting passed off with the best of feeling.

The next day we met for preaching at ten o'clock. In the evening people gathered in from all directions to see the ordinances of the Lord's house practiced, which were new to most of the people in this place. Brother Daniel Deardorff, from Lee County, officiated. The next day was the Sabbath. There was a large congregation.

After meeting, it was announced that baptism would be administered in Crown Creek, about five miles distant. Almost the entire congregation went to see a mother and two daughters buried with Christ in baptism

The tent in which we held our meetings belongs to J. R. Gish. It makes a very comfortable place in which to hold meetings.

The Pigeon Creek church was organized in 1881, with thirteen charter members; Mr. and Mrs. Bernhardt Braun, Brother Fike, Mrs. Isaac Carter, Mr. and Mrs. Henry Long, Mr. and Mrs. Sam Holman, Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Henry, Mr. and Mrs. John Lewis and Maria Calvert.

Brother James R. Gish gave most of the money for building the first church house in 1881, a building located seven miles south of Lacon. Evidently it did not prove satisfactory for long, as it was later sold for a dwelling. Then, on an acre of land donated by Michael Wagner from his farm, a second church house was built in 1883, as reported by C. S. Holsinger in the *Gospel Messenger* of October 30, 1883: "Our new meeting house, just across the line in Woodford County, is now completed. The name of the house is Oak Grove. . . . The dedicatory sermon was delivered by Brother John Harshbarger, October 14th." The



OAK GROVE CHURCH

churches of Northern Illinois contributed two hundred forty-two dollars and twenty cents toward this new meeting-house, as for some years Pigeon Creek had been one of their mission points.

A love feast was held on the evening of October 18, when about forty members communed. On that occasion, "two sermons were preached in the German language for the benefit of some living near the church, who are friends of the cause."¹

The new location of the meeting place was across the line in the District of Southern Illinois, where most of the members of the congregation lived; the northern district withdrew in 1893 and since that time this church has been a part of the District of Southern Illinois.

No extant church records are available before 1894, but we know that in April of that year the Pigeon Creek church had organized the first Sunday school. Christian Workers' meeting started in 1908 and a young people's organization

¹ *Gospel Messenger*, November 20, 1893

began in 1926. Much interest was taken in these meetings, which were a means of spiritual growth.

M. A. Whisler moved to this church in 1926 and has done most of the preaching since that time when the membership numbered thirty-five; at present the membership has reached one hundred eight.

The second church building was burned to the ground on June 6, 1939. That summer a new modern building, thirty-two by forty-eight feet, was erected on the same site, and was dedicated on December 17, 1939. The dedicatory sermon was preached by Elder Otho Winger.

Ten acres of land adjoining the church lot on the west were purchased in 1941. The church intends to build a parsonage on it at some later date.

The ladies' aid began work in 1924 and have an interesting mission study program in connection with their regular work meetings. Since the men's work organized in 1938 they have done much in improving the church and its surroundings. The church has given liberal cash offerings and donated five heifers for relief.

The Oak Grove church has licensed five ministers: J. H. Hardman, 1928; Ora Moreland, 1928; Arthur Whisler, 1931; William Hare, 1931; and Katherine Hare, 1948.

Elders-in-charge of this church have been: James R. Gish, C. S. Holsinger, Daniel Hershey, Samuel Henry, Solomon Bucklew, J. W. Switzer, S. W. Garber, D. J. Blickenstaff, D. E. Eshelman and M. A. Whisler.

These ministers have worked in the congregation: Samuel Henry, C. S. Holsinger, M. A. Whisler, J. H. Hardman, Ora Moreland, Arthur Whisler, William Hare, Oscar Wagner, J. H. Baker, Ervin Weaver, Jesse Cook, Daniel Funderburg, J. D. Keyser, and Gladden Mathis.

"The Oak Grove church . . . is locally known as the

Bricktown church. In 1853 a brick kiln and tile shed had been established in that community and provided work for a number of the early settlers."¹

WOODLAND (1881—)

The early history of the Woodland church is that of the Astoria church, as the two were in combined territory until 1881, when a division of territory was made, after which the east part with sixty-five members was called the Woodland church.

The original church house, built two miles east of Astoria, was their place of worship. In 1883 it was enlarged



OLD WOODLAND CHURCH

and a basement was made. Another house of worship was built in 1887, five miles north of the Woodland church house and three miles south of Ipava. This was known as the Mt. Pleasant house. Church services and Sunday school were held there for many years; but with the coming of

¹ "History of the Oak Grove Church of Southern Illinois," by Mrs. M. A. Whisler, in *Schwarzenau*, Volume I, Number 3, page 22

automobiles as a better means of transportation, the work at the Mt. Pleasant house was discontinued and the building was sold.

D. E. Eshelman, Cyrus Bucher, and I. M. Switzer planned and helped to organize a Sunday school at the Mulberry schoolhouse in 1887. I. M. Switzer was superintendent and there were forty-five present at the first meeting. The following year it was moved to the church, although with some opposition. The Sunday school continued to grow as the church membership had grown.

D. E. Eshelman wrote in the *Brethren at Work*, March 4, 1882: "Twenty-five . . . have united with the Woodland church in a little over a month." In 1890 there were one hundred thirty-five members; in 1895, one hundred seventy-five; and at present, around two hundred.



WOODLAND CHURCH

In 1911 the church building was replaced by a new church house, which was dedicated by E. F. Sherfy.

A ladies' aid was authorized by the church in 1898, became more established in 1908, and has contributed much to the local church program and to missions. The young people's organization has been active since the early twenties, with a variety of programs, inspirational and social. Men's work was organized in 1936 and each year has carried out definite plans for the local work or for relief. Through this organization the men have contributed a half-carload of wheat for relief, sponsored a God's Acre project and helped with local expenses.

Beginning in 1922, with the exception of one year, there is a continuous record of twenty-six years of daily vacation Bible schools sponsored by Sunday-school classes.

Elders of the Woodland church have been: Jesse Danner, S. D. Hamm, D. E. Price, Conrad Fitz, J. H. Baker, M. Flory, C. Bucher, Charles Roddis, J. W. Lear, S. G. Bucher, Charles Walters, W. H. Shull, E. F. Caslow, E. O. Norris, J. J. Johnson, I. J. Gibson, Lester Fike and J. W. Smeltzer.

The following ministers and pastors have served the Woodland church: Jesse Danner, S. D. Hamm, Henry Danner, P. Burgart, Jonas Beck, Theodore Price, Conrad Fitz, J. H. Baker, Charles Roddis, S. G. Bucher, D. E. Eshelman, Charles Walters, S. Senger, Uriah Brillhart, Clinton Kesler, I. J. Gibson, Max Hartsough, W. A. Deardorff, Lester Fike, E. F. Sherfy, Harold Miller and Albert Whitmore.

CONCORD (1881-1908)

The Concord church, five miles south of Clayton, in Adams County, Illinois, was a part of the Mill Creek church before it was divided into Barry, Liberty, Concord and Lorraine, as recorded in the *Brethren at Work*, September 28, 1880. Previous to this time, Concord had been a preaching

point and in 1879 Elder Daniel Vaniman, one of the evangelists of the District of Southern Illinois, had preached several sermons there and baptized three.

A church meeting was appointed at Concord for March 12, 1881, with a view of organizing a new church within the limits of the Mill Creek church. The organization was reported by Elder Daniel Vaniman in the *Brethren at Work*, March 22, 1881, as follows:

On Saturday, March 12, I met Elder John Metzger of Cerro Gordo, and this little band of members, who are scattered in Brown and Adams counties, at Concord in council. By their unanimous consent they were organized into a separate church. The organization was named Concord church. J. F. Neher, a deacon, formerly of Salem, Illinois, was elected to the ministry and installed. Robert Atchison and John F. Neher are ministers and William Choring is a deacon. In all there are about thirty members.

Concord was placed in charge of Elder Daniel Vaniman at the time of organization. He was followed by Elder G. W. Cripe and Elder D. M. Brubaker. In the district meeting minutes Concord is listed from 1881 to 1908; the church was represented occasionally at district meeting by delegate or by letter. The membership decreased in numbers until, at the request of the congregation, the Concord church was disorganized on December 10, 1908.

HADLEY CREEK—BARRY (1881-1898)

"In the year 1834, Daniel Clingensmith moved from Capejerardau County, Missouri to Hadley Creek township, Pike Co., Illinois and in 1835 Brother Daniel died. This was the first death of any white person in Hadley Creek township. About this time, other brethren moved in. This was the beginning of the Hadley Creek church." This account was compiled by H. W. Strickler from the diary of John

Clingensmith. From the same source we learn that John Clingensmith was baptized in Pike County, Illinois, in 1842, chosen to the office of deacon two years later and on October 24, 1874, was forwarded to the ministry.¹

Some time before the organization of the Hadley Creek church, evangelists of the District of Southern Illinois preached at Barry in Pike County. John Wolfe in the *Primitive Christian and Pilgrim* told of Joseph Hendricks and David Wolfe holding meetings in January of 1878. In that same year, Daniel Vaniman went to Barry about the first of December and preached seven sermons, with one accession. By the time of organization Brethren Jacob and Peter Weigle and Jacob Moomaw were in the community. The following account of the organization appears in the *Primitive Christian*, June 7, 1881, written by H. W. Strickler:

The brethren and sisters in Pike County, Illinois met in council at their new meeting-house near Hadley Creek, and under the supervision of Elder Daniel Vaniman assisted by Elder H. W. Strickler, organized a new congregation. They were formerly a part of the Mill Creek church. They have one minister, two deacons, and twenty-five members in all. They gave the new church the name of Hadley Creek.

On the sixth of December 1882 John Clingensmith was ordained to the eldership by Elders Daniel Vaniman and H. W. Strickler; in 1883 there were eighteen members in the Hadley Creek church under his care. A Sunday school was organized in 1885. The church usually held an annual communion meeting with visiting members present. Of special note in the *Gospel Messenger* of September 23, 1884, was an account of Elder John Metzger coming a hundred thirty-seven miles to preach for them, continuing meetings for several evenings. One of his sermons lasted for an hour and a half.

Although small in membership, the Hadley Creek church got along well until their elder, John Clingensmith,

¹ *Family Almanac*, 1890. Page 721

died in 1888. In their council meeting of August 18, 1888, they unitedly requested the missionary board to send them a minister to hold a series of meetings and to revive and strengthen them. The church was much weakened by emigration and in 1898 the remaining members were transferred to the Liberty congregation.¹

Elders who served the Hadley Creek church were: David Wolfe, John Clingensmith, H. W. Strickler, and George W. Cripe.

The largest membership numbered twenty-five; the Sunday school at one time reached an average attendance of fifty.

SOUTH FORK (1882-1890)

The South Fork church was located in Christian County near Edinburgh. In the spring of 1882 Elders John Metzger and A. S. Leer held meetings there and organized a church. Benjamin F. Overton reported in the *Brethren at Work* of November 28, 1882:

This church was organized Feb. last by electing Bro. Charles Cullenberger to the ministry and Bro. Thomas Matthews to the office of deacon. There were fourteen members when the church was organized. Since then we have been having regular meetings once a month and sometimes twice. Oct. 7 we had our first communion. One made application to be received into the church

Brother Overton's account also stated that Brother A. S. Leer was present at the council meeting on November 16, held a few meetings and baptized three. The church at that time was under the care of Abraham Peters and A. S. Leer of the Bear Creek church in Christian County. The

¹ In the *Compiled Minutes and History of the Church of the Brethren in Southern Illinois*, page 13, is a statement that the membership was transferred to Liberty "about 1894." But the name of the Hadley Creek church appears on the district meeting minutes until 1898, with a membership of eight.

following year, 1883, Elder Peters resigned the care of the church on account of his advanced age and Elder B. B. Whitmer was chosen elder-in-charge. The South Fork church was last represented at district meeting in 1889, by David Frantz, who was then elder. The church was disorganized in 1890.

MT. VERNON—NOW PLEASANT GROVE
(1882—)

A number of Brethren families settled in Jefferson County before 1879, when, by the request of the few members there, T. K. Buck made an appeal in the *Primitive Christian and Pilgrim*, May 6, 1879, for Brethren in the East to see the country in Jefferson County before going farther west. He said that they "very much stand in need of a minister" as the nearest organized Church of the Brethren was about thirty miles distant. The following year he wrote in the *Brethren at Work*, July 20, 1880, that the prospects of the Brethren in Jefferson County were brightening and they expected that by fall of that year there would be enough members in that locality to organize a church. In 1880 Elders John Metzger and John Wise visited with and held meetings for the Jefferson County members and thought prospects good for building up a church there.

Elder John Metzger gave an account of the organization of the Mt. Vernon church, in the *Brethren at Work*, November 21, 1882, as follows:

David Frantz and myself boarded the train the 10th ult., for Jefferson Co., Ill. to visit the brethren and sisters at Mt. Vernon. Found them all to be in love and union. On Saturday we met the members there in council . . . to ascertain if the members were in favor of electing a minister and organizing a church at Mt. Vernon All said, yes. No dissenting voice was heard, a choice was held, the lot falling on Bro. David F. Eby. He is now their minister

At early candlelighting time they enjoyed their first communion service in that county. Meetings were well attended. At that time they had one deacon. In June 1884 Elder Jacob Hauger and wife from Milledgeville, Illinois, moved into the congregation of twenty members. Oliver Z. Hicks was elected to the ministry during that year.

A church building was purchased in 1887 and during that summer was repaired and made ready for use, partly through funds from other churches; from Hatfield, Pennsylvania, came a gift of two hundred dollars which almost cleared the building of debt. In 1887 a Sunday school was organized.

At one time there was a church at the corner of Gordon and Second streets, but the lot was condemned for railroad purposes and the building had to be sold. Brother Daniel Ulery, who lived four miles south of Sheller, offered a build-



PLEASANT GROVE CHURCH

ing site for a church, and arrangements were under way to build when Brother Louis Shoemaker offered a wooded

corner of his farm, as it afforded ample shade for the horses during the time of services. This location was chosen, and is the present site of a building erected in 1903. The name of the church was changed to Pleasant Grove in 1910.

Three other ministers were elected in this congregation: John F. Campbell in 1903, and later, Sherman Shoemaker and George Morgan. These elders have been in charge of the church: John Metzger, 1882-1885; David F. Eby, 1885-1891; D. Frantz, 1892; Henry Lilligh, 1893-1904, 1911; John W. Harshbarger, 1905-1910, 1927; George W. Miller, 1912, 1915-1916; S. W. Garber, 1913; Daniel Ulery, 1914; Urias Blough, 1917, 1925, 1928; J. W. Switzer, 1926; S. H. Shoemaker, 1929-1942; Oliver Dearing, 1943-1944; Ausby Swinger, 1946—.

ST. LOUIS (1883-1887)

A record of the St. Louis, Missouri, church belongs in the history of the District of Southern Illinois because the first work of the Brethren there was done by ministers from Southern Illinois and, for a time, the organized church was under the care of Southern Illinois.

In 1881 John Wise wrote in the *Primitive Christian* for February 3 an account of his preaching in St. Louis with Daniel Vaniman and John Metzger; the latter came to help close the meetings. Another record of meetings held in 1881 is given in *The Life of Uncle John Metzger*, page 53 and following:

Going to St. Louis and finding no place to hold services he went to the Salvation Army Hall, where the leader of the meeting saw him and urged him to speak The next day being Sunday he was invited to be present at 3:30 P.M. . . . In the forenoon he went out to the park and seeing many people there he began to preach to them. Next he went to the river bank where he spoke twenty-five minutes to five hundred people and he invited them to the hall where he would preach as per appointment. In the

evening he again attended the Salvation Army service and the leader requested that he should go out and preach on the balcony to the people, which he did. In a week there were four applicants for baptism. In a month there were four more.

The St. Louis church was organized November 27, 1881, and was known as the First St. Louis Brethren church. There were twenty-two members and John Metzger was their elder; Henry Shomber was a resident minister but soon moved away. In the *Brethren at Work*, July 11, 1882, F. C. Myers wrote that Henry Shomber, then of Goshen, Indiana, visited them at St. Louis and held a series of meetings with three baptized at the close of the meetings. Meetings were continued and at nearly every meeting some were added by baptism. These efforts resulted in the need for a church house. Contributions were solicited and the responses were fine. At the Annual Meeting held at Ashland, Ohio, a collection was taken and given to Uncle John to erect a house of worship in St. Louis. He determined not to build until sufficient means were at hand. In 1883, he began work. All the care and labor fell to him and perplexing as it was, he went through it all successfully and accounted for all the money received and paid out. The house was completed and all accounts were carefully audited by a committee chosen by Annual Meeting.¹

The church house was dedicated November 25, 1883, by Daniel Vaniman. An account of the dedication appeared in the *Gospel Messenger* of December 11, 1883.

Early in 1884 a committee appointed by district meeting secured Elder R. K. Berkebile, of Defiance, Ohio, to move to St. Louis and take charge of the work there. In the *Gospel Messenger* of May 13, 1884, A. W. Vaniman reported that the Sunday-school work was encouraging with increasing numbers and interest. Brother Berkebile wrote in the *Gospel Messenger*, September 23, 1884, that he had

¹ M. M. Eshelman, *A Model Life of Uncle John Metzger on Earth*. Mount Morris, Brethren Publishing House, 1898

labored at the Exposition Building as a carpenter every day for two months. He gave a schedule of one of his Sunday's work: at 10:00 A.M. he taught a Bible class in the Sunday school, preached at 11 o'clock, at 3:30 preached a funeral sermon, and also preached at the church again in the evening. He requested help in the ministry and A. W. Vaniman was elected and installed into office September 5, 1884.

In 1886 the following request came to district meeting: "Since the St. Louis church is an organized body outside of Southern Illinois and the property belongs to the General Brotherhood, we ask Annual Meeting through District Meeting to remove the burden of care from this district to the General Church Erection and Missionary Committee." The request was granted.¹

At the same meeting, Elders John Metzger and Daniel Vaniman were appointed to make arrangements for the work in St. Louis, as R. K. Berkebile was soon to leave. These elders reported to the district meeting of 1887 that of the thirty members baptized into the First St. Louis Brethren church only seven remained and that some of these intended to move away soon. As no way seemed open to make the church prosper under existing circumstances, on September 11, 1887, by the consent of the members, the church was disorganized and letters were given to the remaining members. It was recommended to the next Annual Meeting that the church property in St. Louis be sold and the funds be used by the General Church Erection and Missionary Committee to forward the Lord's work.² The minutes of the 1888 Annual Conference record the adoption of this recommendation.

¹ *Compiled Minutes and History of the Church of the Brethren of the Southern District of Illinois.* Page 94

² *Ibid.* Page 99

CERRO GORDO

(1884—)

The Cerro Gordo church is in the town of Cerro Gordo, near the west edge of Piatt County. The early history of this church is included in the account of the Oakley church, as they were one body called the Cerro Gordo, Macon County, church until the division of territory in 1884. The east part took the name, Cerro Gordo, and the west part, Oakley.

A church house had been built in Cerro Gordo by John Metzger at his own expense and dedicated in December 1878 by Elder R. H. Miller.¹



OLD CERRO GORDO CHURCH

In December 1878 George Cripe was holding a series of meetings in the Milmine church. He wrote for the *Brethren at Work* of January 30, 1879: "On Christmas I went to Cerro Gordo to attend a communion. The occasion was a very solemn one, being the first meeting of its kind ever held in Cerro Gordo . . . the meeting was held in the new

¹ *Brethren at Work*, January 2, 1879

meeting-house, built by Brother John Metzger, and he being so much afflicted at the time" Elder Metzger was wrapped in blankets, carried to a sleigh, then carried into the church; although in much pain, he enjoyed the service.

From the time of its organization the church had a rather large active membership. A Sunday-school had been organized soon after the church was built and a permanent organization was effected in 1895. In 1894 the young people organized to meet every Sunday afternoon. In January 1906 a Sunday-school and Bible institute was conducted by J. G. Royer.

J. W. Lear, the first full-time pastor in the district, was called to this church in 1902. A modern brick church was built on the site where the first church stood, and was dedicated by Elder I. B. Trout, April 18, 1909. A parsonage was built on the lot adjoining the church in 1915. In 1927 the church became the beneficiary of a substantial financial gift by Aaron Hufford and wife.

The church was much interested in missions, temperance, and relief; it endorsed the five-year forward movement on July 12, 1919. A ladies' aid was organized in 1898, and a full program of women's work as suggested by the district was undertaken in 1929. A school of missions is held annually and the Sunday school and church have supported Dr. Raymond Cottrell in India for many years. There has been an active men's organization since 1934; the men farm the district-owned eighty acres, which was given to the district by Noah Greenawalt of the Cerro Gordo congregation. Much work has been done for relief: buying a carload of wheat, raising funds for the Friendship train, helping with the heifer project and general relief work.

In the Cerro Gordo church, the following were elected to the ministry: R. E. Burger, Walter Barnhart, B. F. Heckman, J. Hugh Heckman, Levi Shively, Andrew Blick-



CERRO GORDO CHURCH

enstaff, Harry Leedy and Galen Wallick. Other resident ministers were: John Metzger, David Troxel, David Frantz, George W. Cripe, Peter Myers, Daniel Mohler, I. M. Gibson, Sophia Heitz, Robert Atchison, J. W. Lear, O. P. Haines, J. C. Brumbaugh, Walter Coffman, W. Harlan Smith, Leland Templeton and J. Elmer Wagoner.

Elders-in-charge have been: John Metzger, David Troxel, J. G. Royer, D. J. Blickenstaff, J. W. Lear, D. M. Adams, W. T. Heckman, R. H. Nicodemus, G. O. Stutsman, I. D. Heckman, W. J. Tinkle, John B. Wieand, W. Harlan Smith, Ira Hiatt and E. R. Henricks, the present elder.

Pastors have been: J. W. Lear, D. M. Adams, O. P. Haines, J. C. Brumbaugh, B. C. Whitmore, G. O. Stutsman, Walter Coffman, W. J. Tinkle, Clarence Albright, W. Harlan Smith, and Roy B. Teach since 1947.

The fortieth anniversary of the dedication of the present church was observed on June 26, 1949, with J. W. Lear, the first pastor, and a number of later pastors present.

KASKASKIA (1886—)

The Kaskaskia church is the only organized Church of the Brethren in Fayette County; the church building is located eight miles southwest of Beecher City.

Before the time of organization, thirteen members, including Granville Nevinger, a minister, were living in the vicinity. In 1886 a protracted meeting was held by Henry Lilligh and Granville Nevinger; it resulted in fifteen baptisms. Under the direction of Elders Daniel Vaniman and Henry Lilligh, the Kaskaskia church was organized on September 11, 1886, with twenty-eight charter members and was placed under the care of Elder Henry Lilligh of Bond County.

An early report of this newly organized church was written by Brother Nevinger for the *Gospel Messenger* of January 18, 1887. It is as follows:

We, the Kaskaskia church, Illinois, held our first quarterly council meeting, Nov. 27th, 1886, and everything passed off in the fear of the Lord. The church decided to make an effort to build a plain house of worship in the near future. Elder Henry Lilligh was present. We have three regular meetings each month and from two to four special appointments each month. The first additions to the church since our organization occurred the third Sunday of this month, when a husband and wife [applied for membership] Some ten inches of ice were cut and at their request, both husband and wife stepped [into the water] and remained there until each one had [been baptized]. We met in special council Dec. the 25th. We have two prayer meetings each week

In February of the following year, H. W. Strickler preached a series of meetings in a schoolhouse; but as about half of the members lived five miles to the southwest near the Hogue schoolhouse, he planned to hold similar meetings at that place. On June 14, 1890, a love feast was held at the farm home of Brother Nevinger; Elder Henry Lilligh assisted in holding the meetings, which continued over the

week end, when baptism was administered. After the meeting on Sunday, Sister Jane Evans was anointed at her home by Elders Lilligh and Nevinger.

In 1892 David T. Wagner and wife moved into this congregation. He has told of arriving when the meetinghouse was nearly finished, of attending a series of meetings and of the first love feast held in this new building, when the



OLD KASKASKIA CHURCH

temporary seats were made of blocks of wood and boards. It is a matter of interest that Brother D. T. Wagner was present at every love feast held in this church building, which was in use for forty-eight years. He was elected to the ministry in 1894, ordained to the eldership in 1899, and presided as elder until 1937, but worked in the Kaskaskia church until he and his wife went to the Home at Girard in 1943.

Through the years Elder W. T. Heckman of Oakley held six different series of meetings in the Kaskaskia church, with splendid interest and with many additions to the

church; many times the attendants more than filled the church house.



KASKASKIA CHURCH

Elders-in-charge at the Kaskaskia church have been: Henry Lilligh, 1886-1887; Granville Nevinger, 1887-1900; D. T. Wagner, 1900-1937; George W. Miller, 1938-1940; Oliver Dearing, 1941-1944; Ausby Swinger, 1945-1947; Russell Papple, 1948—.

Ministers elected in this church were James Simkins and D. T. Wagner. Part-time pastoral work was done by Oliver Dearing, Otto Baldwin and Ausby Swinger. Summer pastors were Benton Rhoades, Robert Eshelman and Frank Durand. The first work camp in our district was conducted here during the summer of Brother Durand's pastorate.

In 1940 the original church house was torn down and on the same site a new commodious church building was erected, which makes possible a larger program. Twenty acres of land near the church were purchased and a house was moved on the tract for a parsonage. The church is out

of debt and has a prosperous outlook, with Russell Pepple as elder and pastor. The present membership is forty-five.

MARTINS CREEK

(1888—)

About the year 1872, some Brethren families from Ohio and some from Timberville, Virginia, and Harpers Ferry, West Virginia, moved to Wayne County, Illinois, on Martins Creek. These members were a part of the Big Creek congregation, now the Walnut Grove church. Elders Michael Forney and D. F. Eby met with a group of fifteen members on September 26, 1888, and organized a new congregation, to which they gave the name, Martins Creek. Charter members were Elder John Harshbarger and wife, Mr. and Mrs. Moses Barringer, Mr. and Mrs. James Mauck, Mr. and Mrs. John Mauck, Joseph Caltrider, Mr. and Mrs. Ben Stevens, Mr. and Mrs. John Markley and Mr. and Mrs. D. D. Markley. Elders John Harshbarger and James Thomas were their ministers, Daniel Markley and John Mauck their deacons.

At the home of John Mauck, the first love feast was held on September 7 and 8, 1889; the next love feast was held in Moses Barringer's barn in October 1890. Of this last occasion, John Mauck wrote in the *Gospel Messenger* of November 18, 1890: "We had representatives from five adjoining churches; six ministers were present besides our home minister, Elder John Harshbarger The feast was followed by a series of meetings conducted by Brother John Baker of Fulton County." He added: "The church at this place comprises only about twenty-five members. We have no church-house but expect to commence work on one soon" Previous to that time, on December 21, 1889, the church met in council meeting at the White Oak school-

house and decided to build a church. Early in 1891 a church house was erected, located one and one-half mile south and



MARTINS CREEK CHURCH

one-half mile east of Jeffersonville, now known as Geff. A Sunday school was organized February 6, 1895, to be held each Sunday at the church.

Ministers elected in this church were J. W. Harshbarger in 1899 and C. A. Gruber in 1902 when the church membership was fifty-one. These elders have served this church: Michael Forney, John Harshbarger, S. W. Garber, J. W. Harshbarger, Granville Nevinger, C. A. Gruber, Dow Ridgely, Urias Blough, and Ausby Swinger.

Urias Blough was pastor from 1930 until 1941, the time of his death. Ethel Hamerson served as pastor a short time, and at present Ausby Swinger is joint pastor of the Martins Creek and Walnut Grove churches.

For many years there have been few members, but there is a reasonable amount of activity in keeping the church house repaired and improved. The present membership is

ten, with only two active resident members; the others are older or have moved away. The present attendance at Sunday school is about thirty.

LITCHFIELD
(1889-1896)

A few members of the Macoupin Creek church had settled in and near Litchfield, which became a district mission point in the 1880's. Since there was no resident minister, Elder Daniel Vaniman did most of the preaching, holding services in homes of members. Elder Vaniman reported for the *Gospel Messenger* of October 16, 1888:

On Sept. 30, assisted by Elder John Metzger, of Cerro Gordo, Ill., we held the first communion meeting ever held by the brethren in the city of Litchfield. Twenty-two communicants . . . two baptized But few of the quiet spectators, of whom there were more than could get into the house, had ever seen a communion held after the primitive manner before. We heard several say: "That is the way the Bible reads." The little band of members now in Litchfield seem in good spirits and full of zeal They have a weekly prayer meeting and a Sunday School, and both are encouraging

In December of 1888, the Sunday school reached an attendance of eighty, but had to close because of not having a convenient place to meet.

On February 24, 1889, the Litchfield church was organized with the following charter members: M. A. Kidwell, H. P. Parrot, J. P. Studebaker, George Etter, John Fansler, Elizabeth Etter, M. A. Harris, Hannah Parrot, Jennie Alsbough, Louisa Eads, D. M. Kidwell and Emma Harris. Elders Daniel Vaniman and M. J. McClure met with these members and effected the organization. A deacon, J. P. Studebaker, was elected. Elder David Troxel of Cerro Gordo was chosen overseer, and arrangements were made that he should meet with them on the second Sunday of each month; G. W. Gibson was to preach for them on the fourth Sunday.

Through the help of the mission board of Southern Illinois, a church house was bought, of which J. P. Studebaker wrote in the *Gospel Messenger* of August 13, 1889:

The little band of brethren and sisters at this place held their first quarterly council Saturday, July 13. All business passed off pleasantly. We organized a Sunday School; also decided to have a dedicatory sermon for our church-house on Sunday, Sept. 1. Meetings are to continue for some time. We now have a commodious house of worship in Litchfield where about two hundred can be comfortably seated.

Before the close of this same year, a two-week series of meetings was held by D. B. Gibson, with two accessions.

In March 1890 Michael Flory preached for them on the fourth Sundays of January and February, and found there "quite a live church of about twenty-five members. All this has been accomplished through mission work in less than three years."¹ Social meetings were held on Friday evenings or on Sunday afternoons at the homes of the members. In September, just before leaving for California, Elder John Metzger paid them a farewell visit. The district meeting minutes of 1890 report for the year eleven baptisms and a membership of thirty with an average attendance at Sunday school of fifty-eight. In 1892 Javan Gibson succeeded David Troxel as elder-in-charge.

The work prospered for some years, then came some discouragements. This report was sent to the district meeting of 1893: "Litchfield church was disorganized by their unanimous consent, and its members were attached to the Macoupin Creek church."

In later records we find that the Macoupin Creek church and the district mission board carried on the work jointly for a number of years. D. B. Gibson wrote in the *Gospel Messenger* of April 23, 1895: "Am in the midst of a glorious meeting. Seven accessions . . ." Brother B. E. Kessler was located in Litchfield by the mission board and for ten

¹ *Gospel Messenger*, July 15, 1890

months of 1896 worked there. Strong and repeated efforts were made by the Macoupin Creek church to revive the work, but without permanent success.

ROMINE (1892—)

The main part of the work of the Salem church was carried on five miles southeast of Salem, at the present site of the Romine church; so the early history of the Romine church until 1892 is contained in the account of the Salem church. When the territory of the Salem church was divided in 1892, the part east of Salem was called Romine and the members continued to worship in the original Salem church house. This congregation with a membership of thirty-one was placed under the charge of Elder Menno



ROMINE CHURCH

Stauffer. Two years before this, S. S. Fouts had been elected to the ministry and continued as the resident minister.

Later elders-in-charge were: Michael Flory, Granville Nevinger, D. T. Wagner, Urias Blough, C. A. Lewis, G. W. Miller, Oliver Dearing, and Ausby Swinger.

About 1938 church attendance was small with but little interest. Oliver Dearing held a series of meetings with several accessions. He organized a young people's group which became active and influential in helping to build up the church. In 1940 Joseph Campbell was called to the ministry and was ordained two years later; it was largely through his efforts that considerable remodeling was done on the church building. The church, with its new basement and improvements, was rededicated by W. T. Heckman in September 1942.

There is an active women's organization, and the young people help with the church program and finances.

BEMENT (1895-1908)

The Bement church was located in the town of Bement, near the center of Piatt County. The first mention of the Bement church in district meeting minutes appears in 1895. There were then twenty members, one of whom was a minister, and Menno Stauffer was the elder-in-charge. Bement had a church house which had been purchased—lot and house—from the Catholics; it was remodeled and regular services were held in it for a time. Evangelistic meetings were held by I. M. Gibson and others. The maximum membership was twenty. The following elders were in charge: Menno Stauffer, John Arnold, John Barnhart and S. Heitz. At the recommendation of the last-named, a committee was appointed by district meeting of 1907 to visit the members of the Bement church and disorganize it. The committee, composed of D. J. Blickenstaff, John Arnold, and Michael

Flory, met the members in the home of Sister Ann Siders and granted letters of transfer to them.

DECATUR (1911—)

The beginning of the work of the Church of the Brethren in Decatur dates from 1895, when the Annual Conference was held there on the grounds now occupied by Millikin University. I. B. Trout held a week's meetings just before the Conference and one was baptized, most likely the first resident member in Decatur. Brother I. J. Rosenberger held meetings for two weeks immediately following the Conference. At the close of these meetings there were fourteen who had united with the church since the beginning of the Conference.¹ The district mission board accepted Decatur as a mission point; a Sunday school was organized and preaching services were held every two weeks. Since most of the Decatur territory was in the Okaw (now La Place) district, ministers from the Okaw church held meetings in the homes of the members; later, meetings were held in different rented halls. Brother D. B. Gibson of Milmine held a series of meetings, with about a dozen accessions.

In 1901 Mattie Nickey and Mae Edgecomb assisted in the mission work. In 1902 Elder S. W. Garber with his family of active members moved to Decatur from the Allison Prairie church. Brother Garber engaged in the grocery business, but helped much in building up the work of the church and the Sunday school. The aid society was organized in 1905. By 1907 the membership had increased to about fifty, and Elder Michael Flory was secured as pastor.

The district mission board and the Okaw church worked together toward building a church, which was erected at

¹ Report of William Landis in the *Gospel Messenger*, July 30, 1895

the corner of Warren Street and Grand Avenue. It was dedicated on November 8, 1908, by J. W. Lear.



DECATUR CHURCH

Early in 1911 the Decatur church was organized with eighty-four members and with George W. Miller as elder-in-charge. Brother J. W. Lear came as pastor in 1911 and remained until 1919. He was followed by J. W. Grater, S. S. Blough, Bennett Stutsman, J. Q. Goughnour, N. H. Miller, Grant McGuire, John B. Wieand and Wilbur Bantz. Other resident ministers were Henry Lilligh, Roy Brady, O. G. Davis, Clarence Albright, Sylvan Arnold, Fred Eagleton, Henry Dubes, Carl Lauer and Ralph Finnell.

Elders-in-charge of the Decatur church have been: George W. Miller, J. W. Lear, J. W. Grater, D. J. Blickenstaff, G. O. Stutsman, I. D. Heckman, N. H. Miller, W. T. Heckman, Merlin Garber and Wilbur Bantz.

There is a dwelling house on the church lot; it was formerly occupied by the janitor and now is used for Sun-

day school and other meetings. In 1942 a parsonage was bought at 431 Grand Avenue, almost directly across the street from the church.



DECATUR PARSONAGE

The women organized for work about 1910 and have kept this organization continuously, at times with very good results. The men have been organized since 1937 and have helped much in the church program. The CBYF has regular programs on Sunday evenings and holds monthly fellowship gatherings.

A boys' fellowship club helps the delinquent problem.

The present membership of the Decatur church is two hundred ninety-seven.

VIRDEN

(1912—)

After the Pleasant Hill church territory was divided in 1912 the north part was organized on July 9, 1912, as the Virden church, with about one hundred twenty-five charter members. J. H. Brubaker was chosen elder and he had the help of three ministers, Jonathan Brubaker, E. H. Brubaker and James Wirt.

Three lots were purchased on West Dean Street in Virden, where a modern brick church was built; J. W. Lear gave the dedicatory address on June 15, 1913. In 1921 the home of Mary Ann Brubaker, just east of the church, was purchased for a parsonage. Two ministers were elected in the Virden church: Paul Gibbel in 1917, and John Master-son in 1926.



VIRDEN CHURCH

Elders-in-charge have been: J. H. Brubaker, W. H. Shull, H. B. Martin, E. H. Brubaker, E. F. Caslow, I. Clifford Paul and David Fouts.

Pastors serving the Virden church have been: D. F. Warner, William Haynes, H. B. Martin, E. F. Caslow, I. Clifford Paul, David Fouts, Paul Kendall, and Ernest Bowman.

The church has a full program of age-group activities. The ladies' aid was organized in 1912; the name was changed to missionary and aid society in 1925; and the plan outlined by Annual Conference, known as the women's work organization, was adopted in 1931. They supported Leah Ruth Ebey, daughter of Brother and Sister Adam Ebey, missionaries to India, for twelve years and gave half-support for Sister Alice Ebey in 1921. The church has given half-support for Dr. Laura Cottrell in India. Two missionaries have gone from the Virden church—Chalmer Shull to India and Dr.

Paul Gibbel to Nigeria. In support of Brethren service and relief the church raised money for a carload of corn and gave six heifers.

Recently a Hammond organ and sound projector have been installed, which contribute much to the worship and educational program of the church. A loud speaker, which plays chimes and other records for the community, has been added.

GIRARD
(1912—)

The Girard church territory is the south part of what was the Pleasant Hill church until it was divided in 1912, the membership of each part, Virden and Girard, being about one hundred twenty-five members.



GIRARD CHURCH

In the early 1890's the Brethren began a Sunday school in the Primitive Baptist church house in Girard. Soon

after this, preaching was held once or twice each month. The work kept growing and the place of meeting was soon too small; the Universalist church was rented but it, too, was soon filled to capacity and larger quarters were needed. In 1900 the Christian church building was offered for sale and was bought and moved to the present location on Fifth and Washington streets. The congregation continued to grow and in 1905 or 1906 the house was enlarged by adding a wing to the entire north side of the building. So, at the time of its organization, the Girard church had a good church building and an active working congregation. A new parsonage was built on the church property in 1947.

These brethren have been elders-in-charge of the church: Michael Flory, I. J. Harshbarger, W. H. Shull, W. A. Deardorff, E. F. Caslow, Leland Nelson and A. P. Musselman.

The home ministers have been: Cullen Gibson, D. B.



GIRARD PARSONAGE

Gibson, Michael Flory, Moses Smeltzer, W. H. Shull, G. O. Stutsman, Charles Harshbarger, I. J. Harshbarger, I. J. Gibson, Paul Bechtold, W. A. Deardorff and Dewey B. Cave.

G. O. Stutsman, Charles Harshbarger, Irvin Gibson and Paul Bechtold were elected to the ministry in this congregation.

The following have served as pastors of this church: D. W. Shock, O. F. Shaw, C. W. Wright, A. L. Sellers, A. R. Coffman, Earl Bowser, Kenneth Bechtel, C. H. Albright, Leland Nelson and A. P. Musselman.

From the time of its organization the Girard church has always been strong in numbers; the present membership is one hundred seventy-seven. The women's council meets regularly for missionary and homebuilders programs and supports the different phases of the district women's work program.

Lucile Gibson Heckman, whose home was in this congregation, is on the mission field in Nigeria.

CHAMPAIGN

(1915—)

The city of Champaign was originally considered a part of the Blue Ridge church territory. The Champaign First Church of the Brethren had its beginning about 1901, when Charles A. Lewis, a minister, and his family moved from Farmer City, Illinois, to Champaign and began to look for members of the Church of the Brethren. After some time he and Brother William Roney found a place for public worship on the second floor of a store building on West Main Street in Urbana. There they were assisted by John Barnhart of Mansfield. About fifteen persons were in attendance at their first meeting. Later they arranged to meet for services in a schoolhouse on the east side of Urbana, where they met regularly for some time and G. O. Stutsman assisted in a two weeks' series of meetings.

It was in 1912 that Brother Lewis approached the dis-

strict mission board asking it to assist in starting new work in the north part of Champaign. A tent was erected on the site where the church now stands, at 1203 Market Street;



CHAMPAIGN CHURCH

here several meetings were conducted with J. W. Lear and W. T. Heckman in charge. Excellent interest was aroused, and there were fifteen accessions. A strong desire was expressed for continuing the work with the idea of permanency. During 1913, with C. A. Lewis as pastor, services were held in a private house near where the tent meetings had been held. Also during that year a splendid church building was erected, and Elder J. W. Lear preached the dedicatory sermon on January 4, 1914.

This was followed by a series of meetings by J. W. Lear, which resulted in several baptisms—twenty in all during that year. Then C. A. Lewis resigned as pastor and Rolland Leatherman of Bethany Bible School was secured as pastor in 1914. A prosperous year followed, with twenty-nine

added by baptism. On August 22, 1915, the Champaign church was organized with seventy-five charter members and Elder W. T. Heckman as elder-in-charge; Rolland Leatherman continued as pastor.

An interesting Sunday school was carried on with an average attendance of eighty-four. After Brother Leatherman closed his pastorate, August 1, 1917, Minna Heckman moved to Champaign and helped in the work until Elder J. W. Kitson came as pastor in February 1918.

During the pastorate of J. W. Kitson, a new eight-room parsonage was built adjacent to the church. The previous year improvements had been made on the church building; Sunday-school rooms and new seats in the sanctuary had been added. After Elder Kitson closed four years of successful work as pastor, there was a period of about a year and a half when there was no resident pastor. During that time several ministers, Jesse Cook, Albert Smith and John Blough, served for brief periods. Then, on January 1, 1925, E. O. Norris came as pastor, at a time of real need for reviving and spiritualizing the work in the church; he was quite successful and continued as pastor for about three years. The pulpit then was supplied by John Ellis, a student in Bethany Biblical Seminary. Much credit is due W. W. Peters for his valued services while he was a graduate student in the University of Illinois. Then Clarence Albright of Decatur served as pastor for about a year.



CHAMPAIGN
PARSONAGE

It was in 1934 that Merlin Garber of Virginia came to

Champaign and at once was very active as pastor and evangelist. The church has grown until the membership numbers three hundred twenty-one, the largest in the District of Southern Illinois.

Robert Richards and Rolland Walters have been licensed and ordained to the ministry.

A new entrance has been added to the church building and a pipe organ installed. During the past year nearly a hundred dollars has been raised each Sunday to cover the general budget of the church. During Brother Garber's pastorate a lot was secured and a building fund has reached such proportions that a new church house is contemplated for the near future. Mention must also be made of the splendid and valuable gifts to the Champaign church by a family of isolated members, C. L. Strong and wife of Homer, Illinois.



DRAWING OF NEW CHURCH, CHAMPAIGN

The following have been elders-in-charge of the Champaign church: W. T. Heckman, G. W. Miller, J. W. Kitson, E. O. Norris, W. W. Peters and Wilbur Bantz.

A ladies' aid was organized in 1914; it later merged with the missionary society and the new organization be-

came the women's mission work with an attendance of from twenty to twenty-five. Men's work was organized in 1942. CBYF activities include relief projects and assistance in public worship services for the congregation. The Champaign church is doing much work for relief.

In June 1949 Merlin Garber ended a fifteen-year pastorate; Robert Richards served during the summer. On September 1, Neils Esbensen became the full-time pastor. On February 26, 1950, ground was broken for the new church at the corner of Neil and Garwood Streets.

SPRINGFIELD

(1922—)

The Annual Conference of the Church of the Brethren was held in Springfield in 1906 and was followed by a Bible institute conducted by Brethren E. B. Hoff and A. C. Wierand of Bethany Biblical Seminary. The district mission board thought it an opportune time to open up mission work in Springfield. The first mission workers were Alma Crouse and Myrtle Watson, who took charge of a mission house in the north part of the city, where they conducted a Sunday school and where various ministers from surrounding Brethren congregations held preaching services.

In October of 1906 the district mission board purchased a two-story dwelling near the mission house. This was used as a new mission home; here Sunday school and two preaching services were held each Sunday, and a midweek prayer meeting was conducted each week.

For a few years some progress was made under the direction of Salome Yordy, followed by Brother and Sister B. F. Heckman, who conducted a series of meetings in the summer of 1908. The work continued until 1910. Six had been baptized. But without a pastor or a church house, and

with some members moving away and various discouraging conditions existing, the work was closed for a time.

In September 1920 a three weeks' tent meeting was held by W. T. Heckman and Jesse Shull and wife; Etta Haynes and Fannie Bucher were also helping. Soon a place was secured where work was continued by Etta Haynes and Lora Wagner. A Sunday school was again organized and regular preaching services were held. An aid society was organized in the home of Sarah Glenwright; also a mothers and daughters organization. In June 1921 Brother Jesse Shull and wife took up pastoral work there. A house was purchased for a parsonage, which was also used for Sunday school and church services.



SPRINGFIELD CHURCH

In 1921-1922 a modern church building was erected at 2115 South Yale Boulevard. The first services were held in the church basement on February 5, 1922, and the completed church was dedicated on May 7, 1922, by J. W. Lear.

In October of that year Brother Moyne Landis held a

successful revival, with thirteen accessions. On Sunday, November 5, 1922, the Springfield church was organized with fifty charter members; W. T. Heckman was chosen elder. Jesse Shull continued as pastor until 1926 and has been succeeded by the following pastors: Russell A. Sherman, Allie Eisenbise, Earl Breon, Walter Sell, Roy Brady, Ralph Finnell, Galen Lehman, Russell Wenger, and Leland Emrick.

The church records prior to 1926 are lost. In 1948 the church membership was one hundred ninety-four, with an average attendance at Sunday school of eighty-six, and an average attendance at vacation church school of sixty-two. The eighty-fourth district meeting of Southern Illinois was held in the Springfield church in 1947.

Elders-in-charge have been: W. T. Heckman, Earl Breon, E. F. Caslow, Galen Lehman, R. C. Wenger, Leland Nelson and Leland Emrick.

BECON CREEK, BUCKHART, BUFFALO, AND TAZEWELL

Becon Creek, Buckhart, Buffalo and Tazewell are listed as congregations in the district meeting minutes, but we have no information about their organization or disorganization. Becon Creek is listed but once, in 1876, but was not represented. Buckhart is listed from 1870 to 1876; it was represented in 1873 by John Shick, and in 1874 by John Metzger. The name, Tazewell, appears from 1874 to 1877, but with no representation. Buffalo is listed from 1871 to 1873, but with no representation; it was located in La Salle County, outside the District of Southern Illinois.

PEORIA (1948—)

Located within the territory of the Oak Grove church is Peoria, Illinois, where Elder J. Frank Myers held some

meetings prior to September 1937, when the few resident members requested the board of administration to assume management of the work. Elder Myers had then moved to Iowa and they were without a resident minister, although they continued with Sunday school and regular preaching



PEORIA CHURCH

services. In 1945 the committee appointed by the board of administration, working with the General Mission Board, secured J. Calvin Bright to serve as pastor.

The first church service by Brother Bright was held in the home of Raymond Shultz on May 20, 1945, with fourteen present. Then for more than a year services were held in a store building. At the corner of West Wilson Street and Illinois Avenue a lot was purchased, but because of building restrictions a temporary church building was erected by donated labor of the local church members and men of the district; it was dedicated February 16, 1947. Later an addi-

tion was built to make room for Sunday-school classes.

J. Calvin Bright terminated his pastorate on May 1, 1947, to serve as a missionary in China. Lorrel Eikenberry was then secured as pastor.

The membership was officially organized as the Peoria church on June 6, 1948, by Elders M. A. Whisler and Dewey Cave. Letters were read and accepted for the forty-two charter members. At that time three deacons were elected. Elder M. A. Whisler was chosen elder-in-charge. Donald P. Shultz has been licensed to the ministry.

Women's work was organized on November 28, 1947; men's work was organized in January 1948. Both groups have been active in local and in district projects. An active CBYF has functioned since the time of the church organization. Vacation schools are held annually.

Institutions and Organizations

ANNUAL MEETINGS

Yearly meetings of the Church of the Brethren grew out of an attempt to unify the Brethren and to strengthen them to withstand outside influences, as well as to give unified direction to the church. In 1741 Count Zinzendorf came to America with hopes of uniting the various Christian communities of German background through synods or conferences in Pennsylvania. At the first of these gatherings of more than fifty persons, five were Brethren. Other such meetings followed, but it seemed that the ideal of unity was then impossible. At the third conference, which was held in Germantown in February 1742, three Indians were received into the church by sprinkling; because of this, the immersionists withdrew, among them the Brethren, led by George Adam Martin. That same year what may be called the first Annual Meeting of the Brethren was held in the Coventry congregation. At that time the "Tunkers" determined to hold yearly meetings, although we have no minutes of such meetings until 1778.

Three Annual Meetings have been held in the District of Southern Illinois: near Girard in 1874; in Decatur, 1895; and in Springfield, 1906.

Girard, 1874

The Annual Meeting of 1874 was held about one mile north of Girard, on the farm of Joseph Filbrun. Railroad accommodations were excellent; a station with a large platform was built and named the Filbrun station. Temporary

telegraph and post offices were established. Space for assembly was furnished by a tent, sixty by two hundred ten feet, which was attached to the barn, giving an additional fifty feet of space; one end of the tent was used as a dining hall.

From wells back of the tent, water was pumped by "western windmills" to convenient places on the grounds. A twenty-acre field used for parking wagons and horses was filled on Sunday and an adjoining field was also used. On Sunday the immense crowd was estimated at from eight to twelve thousand. "By request and contrary to established regulations, services were held in the barn and at the house as well as in the tent."¹ One half of the number in attendance on Sunday were furnished with two free meals. During the five days of the meeting no charge was made for meals or lodging; the houses and barns for miles around were used as lodging places.

The business meeting began on Monday morning and continued until Tuesday evening, two sessions of about four hours each being held each day. Henry Davy was the moderator of the meeting, Enoch Eby, reading clerk, and James Quinter, writing clerk. It was decided to publish a synoptic rather than a full report of the business meeting, and arrangements were made for a compilation of the minutes of previous conferences. Other matters of discussion were collegiate education, owning of musical instruments, joining farmers' clubs, and engaging in banking. Editorial comment in the *Pilgrim*, June 16, 1874, stated:

The subject matter before the meeting was not what we thought it should have been. Neither were the conclusions altogether in harmony with our views. But perhaps it was the best that could have been done under the circumstances On the whole the deliberations passed off rather pleasantly, in only a few cases giving room for excitable discussions

There is one thing which we much enjoy, with many others,

¹ *Weekly Pilgrim*, June 16, 1874. Pages 188-189

the association of kindred spirits. It is on these occasions that we meet from all parts of our great brotherhood. Distance, customs, and different stations of life are all left behind and we meet as one common family

Following are excerpts from a newspaper report of this Annual Meeting.

The National Conference of Dunkards went into business session at Girard, Ill., on Tuesday and adjourned on Wednesday. The first question considered was the propriety of having the conference published, giving the nature of the discussion and the names of the disputants. This was warmly discussed, some contending for the liberty of the press, while others were opposed to anything more than a synopsis without name being given, believing a full report would be calculated to create discord among the brotherhood, and exhibit a degree of pride on the part of the Conference that would be unscriptural and dangerous. A majority were not in favor of departing from primitive customs, and only a synoptic report will be published.

It was then decided to send out ministers on missionary work to preach the doctrine of peace to the nations.

A question was presented to have the old minutes of the previous Conference compiled and published, which was granted and a special committee appointed on the subject.

A long discussion then took place on the proper manner of wearing the beard, and it was then decided that while it has never been the rule of the church to wear a full beard, it is not permitted to wear mustaches only.

The question of allowing members to engage in banking business was discussed, and was decided in the negative, as it would lead to covetousness, litigation and usury, all of which is forbidden by the sect.

On the question of collegiate education it was decided not to be advisable to send children to college. It was determined not to permit the use of their names in the establishment of High Schools controlled by the church.

The question of saluting the colored brethren . . . was settled by permitting each church to make their own rules on this subject, though some of the brethren thought that a rule ought to be made forbidding any question on account of color in osculatory salutes.

The question as to the propriety of Dunkards joining Farmers' clubs produced a long discussion, and it was finally decided that it would be inconsistent with the religion of the sect for members to join any such societies.

It was decided that the piano, or other musical instruments should not be kept by any member of the church, though the Council could not prohibit their use.

Decatur, 1895

Annual Meeting of 1895 was held in Decatur, Illinois, at Oakland Park, about a mile west of the center of the city, and on the present site of Millikin University. The park of about sixteen acres was covered with fine native oak trees. A number of buildings were constructed: a tabernacle one hundred twenty by one hundred seventy feet; a dining hall seventy-six by one hundred twenty feet, seating about six hundred; forty lodging tents; and a building with ample space for the sessions of the Standing Committee. All of these buildings were erected by the city of Decatur. To avoid marring the trees, the tabernacle roof was built around them, leaving many leaf-covered branches beneath the roof, giving the inside a picturesque appearance. Acoustic properties were so excellent that the striking of a clock back of the stand could be distinctly heard in any part of the auditorium.

The attendance on Sunday was estimated at from twenty thousand to twenty-five thousand. Among the aged on the platform was Elder John Metzger of California, nearly eighty-eight years old; also Elder John Wolfe of Liberty, Illinois, who was about eighty-four years old and was probably the oldest member in the United States born and reared in Illinois. He was the only living child of Elder George Wolfe, who pioneered in southern Illinois long before it was a state.

The moderator of the meeting was Enoch Eby; reading clerk, M. J. McClure; writing clerk, D. L. Miller. The propriety of sewing societies was discussed and approved. The General Missionary and Tract Committee gave an excellent report showing progress in our missionary work and growing sentiment among our people to do more in spreading the

gospel. Plans for city mission work were discussed and encouraged.

Elder D. L. Miller said that it was one of the most satisfactory meetings that he had ever attended. J. H. Moore, in the *Gospel Messenger* of June 18, 1895, said:

. . . So ended one of the most harmonious Annual Meetings we have ever attended. We cannot remember one unkind word was said during any of the deliberations No one could witness the proceedings from day to day without admiring the simplicity of the meeting and the good feeling that prevailed on every hand.

This Annual Meeting was different from any former one in that a series of meetings was held one week preceding the opening of the Conference and continued throughout the meeting. The Conference was followed by preaching services and several were baptized. This led to the beginning of a Church of the Brethren in the city of Decatur.

Springfield, 1906

The third Annual Conference to be held in the District of Southern Illinois was held at Springfield in 1906. The spacious state fair grounds furnished ample space and adequate buildings for all the meetings and for lodging to accommodate many of those in attendance.

Several days before the conference convened, I. N. H. Beahm began meetings; also a Bible institute was held under the direction of A. C. Wieand and E. B. Hoff. On Sunday an estimated seven thousand attended Sunday school, with probably ten thousand at preaching Sunday afternoon in the auditorium—with as many elsewhere on the grounds.

The missionary meeting was held on Monday afternoon with Elder D. L. Miller presiding, and the missionary address was given by D. D. Culler of Mount Morris College. After the offering of nearly ten thousand dollars, D. L. Miller presented the six missionaries who had been selected by the

General Missionary Board. They were: Frank and Anna Crumpacker and Emma Horning, approved for China; Ella Miller, Josephine Powell, and Charles Brubaker, approved for India.

The business session of the conference was held from Tuesday morning until Thursday forenoon. Officers were: S. F. Sanger, moderator; H. C. Early, reading clerk; I. B. Trout, writing clerk. The following actions were taken: the advisability of a committee on classifying the minutes of Annual Meeting was discussed and approved; a committee was authorized to draw up a plan for the election of ministers and deacons; the question of a church name was put into the hands of a committee; the tithing question was to be spread on the minutes for one year; greater leniency in regard to divorce was refused, and the Conference decision of 1898 was reaffirmed; a committee was formed for more effective ministerial distribution.

The spiritual atmosphere of the whole Conference was high. Evangelistic efforts followed the general Conference, and the Bible school conducted by A. C. Wieand and E. B. Hoff continued through the month of June. As a result of the Conference a mission was opened which led to the establishment of the church in Springfield.

DISTRICT MEETINGS

The Annual Meeting of 1856 approved the plan for district meetings. By this arrangement several congregations in one region assemble in a district meeting to consider matters of mutual interest and attempt to keep the district work in line with the program of the general brotherhood.

District meeting is held once each year, with one or more delegates from each church; they choose the officers of the meeting: moderator, reading clerk and writing clerk.

The elders from the churches in the district assemble in an elders' meeting before the open sessions of the district meeting begin and consider matters and problems concerning the best interests of the district.

The District of Southern Illinois was organized in 1863 and the first district meeting was held in the Hurricane Creek church. The location and the officers of district meeting for each following year are indicated in the tabulated list. See pages 316-318.

GEOGRAPHICAL EXTENT

In 1907, the District of Northern Illinois and Wisconsin and the District of Southern Illinois agreed upon a division line between them; it was fixed at the northern boundary lines of these counties: Iroquois, Ford, Livingston, Woodford, Peoria, Knox, Warren and Henderson. The map shows the location of each congregation. See pages 24 and 25.

MISSIONARY WORK

The Church of the Brethren has been evangelistic from its beginning; through emigration members moved to new parts of the country, often in groups, and wherever the Brethren established new homes they were eager for church services. If there was no minister in a group they sent appeals for someone to come and preach for them. Usually new congregations were organized and in time new districts were formed.

However, at a much earlier date than is usually supposed, efforts were made to make missionary activity of special importance in the church. As early as 1852 Annual Conference advised that "it is the duty of the church, the ministers and every private member to do all that is in their power to fulfill that commission . . ." (Matthew 28:19, 20).

District Missions

In 1876 the district meeting of Southern Illinois "decided that John Metzger and Joseph Hendricks be appointed missionaries for Southern Illinois for one year and that immediately brethren be appointed in each church to circulate a subscription, giving the members of their respective congregations an opportunity to give as they feel . . ."¹ From 1876 to 1880 the district meeting appointed the following missionaries for Southern Illinois: 1876—John Metzger and Joseph Hendricks; 1877—James R. Gish, Joseph Hendricks, David Wolfe, and Daniel Vaniman; 1878—John Metzger, James R. Gish, Joseph Hendricks, and Daniel Vaniman; 1879—J. E. Studebaker, John Neher, John Beechley, John Brubaker and A. D. Stutsman; 1880—John Wise, Daniel Vaniman, D. B. Gibson, Lemuel Hillery, James R. Gish and T. D. Lyon. In 1878 the missionaries of Southern Illinois reported one hundred sixteen baptisms during the year at an expense to the district of \$59.40.

In 1881 another plan was adopted, suggesting the appointment in each local church of a committee of three who were to receive calls for preaching and arrange that the calls be filled. In 1885 this plan was succeeded by the appointment of a district missionary committee, later called the mission board, now the board of administration. These brethren were former ministers and often held meetings during the late fall and winter.

James R. Gish wrote an article in the *Brethren at Work* of February 13, 1883, entitled, "Part of My Winter's Work":

. . . From Dec. 14 to Jan. 30 in about forty-eight successive days, I was at about sixty-two meetings, including council meetings, taking the weather as it came, day and night doing the largest part of the preaching, often alone, mostly in isolated places. Thus far I have received eight by baptism, and sold and donated some thirty-five Testaments.

¹ *Compiled Minutes and History of the Church of the Brethren in the District of Southern Illinois.* Page 56

Between the years 1876 and 1883 a number of articles appeared in the *Brethren at Work* concerning the Central Illinois mission field. This was the part of Illinois between the northern and the southern district, an area about eighty miles wide. The District of Southern Illinois authorized her missionaries to help in this field.

World-wide Missions

The District of Southern Illinois has been among the foremost in missionary work. Since the days when Daniel Vaniman lived here, the district has been liberal in its support of the world-wide endowment. Numbers of congregations have assumed support of missionaries and children of missionaries; Sunday schools and young people's groups have supported orphans; but the greatest contribution of the district to mission work has been through the young men and women who have given their service to this work.

Among the first volunteers in the Church of the Brethren for foreign mission work were Albert W. Vaniman and his wife, who answered the call for workers in India in 1892 and were accepted by the Annual Conference of 1894. Then because only three were to be sent, they resigned in favor of Wilbur B. and Mary Stover.¹ So they did not get to the foreign mission field until 1900 or they would have been the first Brethren missionaries to a non-Christian foreign field.

The Church of the Brethren has been intensely interested in missionary work² and from small beginnings in world missions has opened up successful work in India, China, Nigeria, Scandinavia, and Ecuador. From the District of Southern Illinois workers have gone to each of these fields.

India

The first foreign missionary from this district was Anna

¹Galen B. Royer, *Thirty-Three Years of Missions*. Pages 403-404

²Some short-lived efforts have been made in a few other countries—France, Switzerland and Turkey.

Shull Forney, of the Pleasant Hill church, who went to India in 1897. The D. L. Forneys opened the second mission station in India at Jalalpor in 1899. Nora Arnold Lichty of the La Place congregation went to the India field in 1903, working at Umalla.

The next year the India field was strengthened by the arrival of Flora Nickey Ross, who began her Christian life in the Oakley congregation. She was located at the Vyara station.

Charles H. Brubaker, a missionary sent to India in 1906, grew up in the Pleasant Hill church. He worked at Vada, where his short missionary career was ended in 1910; he was the first of our foreign missionaries to die on the field.

Dr. Barbara Nickey, whose early home was in the Oakley congregation, where she came into the church, went to the India field in 1915 and most of her work has been at Dahanu.

In 1920 four missionaries from the District of Southern Illinois went to the India field. Verna Blickenstaff, R.N., of the Oakley church, was at the Dahanu hospital for a time and later at Bulsar. J. Elmer Wagoner of La Place and his wife, Ellen Heckman Wagoner, who grew up in the Oakley church, located at Vyara. Chalmer Shull from the Virden church located at Ahwa, Dangs, Surat district.

Lynn Blickenstaff, who grew up in the Cerro Gordo church, went to India in 1921 and served as intermission business office secretary at Bulsar and Bombay.

Dr. Ida Metzger, who was born near Cerro Gordo and came into the church there, sailed for India in 1925.

In 1946 Ernest Shull, who grew up near Girard, joined the forces in India and is located at Dahanu Road, Thana district.

China

B. Franklin Heckman, whose early life was spent in the

Oakley congregation, where he came into the church, served as a missionary at Ping Ting Chou, China, from 1911 to 1913. He was the first of our missionaries to die on the China field.

In 1913 Cora Cripe Brubaker, who was baptized in the Cerro Gordo church, went to China.

Sweden

The first missionary to Sweden from the District of Southern Illinois was Albert W. Vaniman, who grew up and was baptized in the Pleasant Hill church. He served in Sweden from 1900 to 1905.

In 1913 Ida Buckingham of the Oakley congregation went to Sweden, where she served at Malmö from 1913 to 1929.

Nigeria

From the District of Southern Illinois two have gone to Nigeria. Lucile Gibson Heckman of Girard has served on this field since 1923.

Dr. J. Paul Gibbel, who grew up in the Virden congregation, went to Nigeria in 1926, where he worked as a medical missionary until 1929.

Ecuador

J. Benton Rhoades, of the Astoria church, went in 1946 to the mission field recently opened by the Brethren near Quito, Ecuador.

A more complete account of each of these missionaries appears in the biographical section beginning on page 165. The inspiration of their lives and sacrificial service is strongly felt throughout the district.

INSPIRATIONAL ACTIVITIES

Ministerial meetings

Ministerial meetings had their beginnings in the District of Southern Illinois in 1891. The district meeting of that year had left the matter in the hands of the ministers. The first meeting was held at Cerro Gordo on December 16-17, 1891.

These meetings were held annually during the winter months until 1897, when it was decided to hold a one-day meeting in connection with the district conference. A list of times, places and officers of the ministerial meetings appears in the appendix.

District Sunday-school Meetings

The organization of district Sunday-school meetings was granted by the Annual Meeting of 1897, which, in the following year, advised each state district to elect a district Sunday-school secretary for a term of three years. A district Sunday-school meeting was held in the Okaw church in connection with the district conference of 1897.

The following served as district Sunday-school secretaries: J. L. Hudson, 1898-1899; J. J. Scrogum, 1900-1901; J. M. Masterson, 1902-1904; Charles C. Gibson, 1905-1907; I. D. Heckman, 1908-1912; 1916-1918; Elizabeth Howe Brubaker, 1913-1915; Edith Bubb, 1919-1921; Ira Wickert, 1922-1923; Preston Arnold, 1924-1934.

In 1903 an advisory board was appointed to supervise the Sunday-school work of the district and to raise funds for mission work. In 1909 a larger organization was established, known as the Sunday-school and Bible institute of Southern Illinois, and the work of the district Sunday-school secretary was transferred to the above organization.

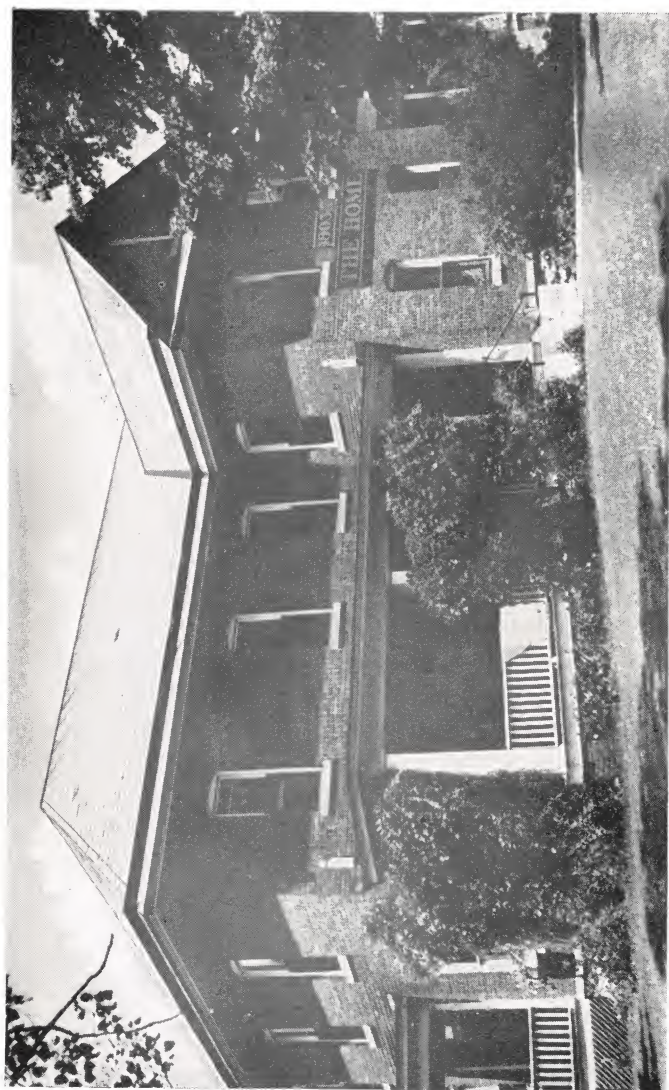
Bible Institutes

The first Bible institute in Southern Illinois was held at the Oakley church in August 1907; it was a ten-day session conducted by A. C. Wieand. The district meeting of 1907 decided to make this a permanent meeting and it was continued with considerable interest until 1922. It was held in various parts of the district, usually during the Christmas holidays. Inspirational speakers were brought into the district, professors from Bethany Biblical Seminary often being the leaders. In 1923 a tour of the district by leading brethren for one-day conferences replaced the Bible institute.

WELFARE

The district meeting of 1924 decided to merge the temperance committee, the Bible and Sunday-school committee and the board of religious education into one committee, to be known as the district welfare board.

The district was early interested in welfare work; a committee was appointed by the district meeting of 1879 with special interest in establishing a home for orphan children. This committee was composed of John Wise, John Metzger, John Barnhart, David Troxel, James R. Gish, T. D. Lyon and A. J. Bower. During that year, a sum of over four thousand dollars was pledged. An extensive set of by-laws for the Brethren's orphan home was adopted by the district meeting of 1881. A farm had been purchased about one mile west of Cerro Gordo; it was operated by a tenant who acted also as the superintendent in caring for orphan and homeless children. It was in operation for a few years with some good reports. But as its plan of operation was not entirely satisfactory, the district meeting of 1886 decided on the sale of the property after the committee appointed



THE HOME, GIRARD

the previous year reported finding no way or plan to make the home a success under existing circumstances.

The spirit of welfare work within the district came to new life and action in 1900 when the district meeting appointed a committee to investigate possibilities of establishing an old folks and orphans' home. Located just west of Girard, the Home was completed in 1906, and dedication services were conducted by Galen B. Royer. Several years later orphans were no longer cared for. During the years many marked improvements have been made on the buildings and the grounds and the equipment has been modernized. The old age pension plan has made it possible to increase the number of guests greatly; the twenty-five rooms for guests are all occupied most of the time. General maintenance is on a sound financial basis. Superintendents of the Home have been: Michael Flory, 1906-1907; Moses Smeltzer, 1907-1914; H. O. Appleman, 1914-1925; Jacob Showalter, 1925-1929; Rev. Hurtt, 1929-1930; Everett Deming, 1930-1932; Frank Martin, 1932-1935; George Brubaker, 1935-1937; William Deardorff, 1937-1941; Frank Martin, 1941-1942; John H. Harshbarger, 1942-1945; and Dewey Cave, 1945—.

We have mentioned that the district welfare board of four members took over the work of the temperance committee, the Bible and Sunday-school institute committee, the board of religious education and children's work. The first welfare board was appointed in 1925; lists of these board members appear in the appendix. Later there were other changes on the board. In 1926 the committee was enlarged to include the district Sunday-school secretary, who, in 1928, took over the work of the secretary of religious education. In that year a secretary of peace was appointed.

The welfare board sponsored a number of joint Sunday-school and B.Y.P.D. conferences and also did a considerable amount of work along the lines of peace and temperance—

including the promotion of a campaign to support the eighteenth amendment. At times group meetings were held in different sections of the district to emphasize the various departments of the work.

BOARD OF ADMINISTRATION

In 1933 the name of the welfare board was changed from district welfare board to the board of Christian education. In order to unify the work of the various boards of the district, the board of administration was formed in 1935, taking over the work of the district mission board, the district ministerial board, the board of Christian education, the finance board and the district treasurer. The board of administration is composed of nine members, each serving for three years, with three members elected each year. The work of the board has been assigned under the departments of church extension, district missions, Christian education, ministerial affairs, and finance.

For ten years the board arranged for a district field worker; a district newsletter has been distributed quarterly since 1937; some financial help is given to different churches; assistance is given at the installation of pastors; and much work was done by the board toward the establishment of intermediate, junior, and family camps. A list of the personnel of this board appears in the appendix.

WOMEN'S WORK

District women's work was organized in 1916 in an organization known as the sisters' aid society of Southern Illinois. Many years before that there were numerous aid societies functioning in the congregations.

In 1929, at the meeting of the district aid society, it was decided to merge that organization with the mothers and

daughters society and the missionary society under the name of women's work. Two years later the women's work was organized according to the plan of the national women's work council.

Since then the women have had as their project the girls' schools in Nigeria, India, and China. They have sent funds to Bethany Hospital, the Brethren Service Committee, and Manchester College, and have provided scholarships for Bethany Biblical Seminary students from this district. They have also given to the district project, which is helping a student at Manchester College. Besides supporting the national and district projects, they are very active in relief work—sewing, canning, and collecting clothing, shoes, seeds and soap. In addition to a meeting at the time of district meeting, an all-day spring rally is held annually.

A summary of the collective results of work done by the women's organizations of the district is astonishing. A list of the officers of the district women's work appears in the appendix.

MEN'S WORK

The organized men's movement in our district is of rather recent date, beginning in 1933, with an increasing number of congregations organizing through the years. It is essentially a layman's movement; the purpose is to have each man take part in the work of the church and assume individual responsibility.

Most organized groups have regular meetings and carry out worth-while projects; much is also being done in improving church buildings and grounds. There has been extensive support of the ministerial pension plan and the Lord's Acre movement; also in some congregations the men farm church farms. For a number of years congregations of the district have helped with the heifers for the relief project, with the

farm of Lester Beery near Hammond as a collecting center; there has been large support not only from Brethren people but also from other church and benevolent groups.

CAMPS

Since 1939 the young people of the northern and southern Illinois districts have jointly used Camp Lewiston, Illinois (a camp not owned by the Brethren), with an attendance ranging from eighty to one hundred sixty-five. Sponsored by the district men's organization, a camp site of some thirty acres was bought in 1948. Located two and a half miles south of Astoria, the camp was in use for the first time during the summer of 1949, accommodating various age groups.

In 1940 the young people's organization of the district sponsored the first camp for intermediates, which was held at Camp Kiwanis, near Decatur. At this camp, or at Camp Seymour, also near Decatur, an intermediate camp has been held annually until 1948, when the camp near Astoria was under consideration.

The first junior camp in the district was held in the summer of 1944, when a three-day camp was held at Camp Kiwanis with an attendance of fifty-nine. Junior camp has been held each summer until 1948.

On November 14, 1945, the ministers of the district authorized the district executive secretary to arrange for a week-end family camp. The first family camp was held at Camp Kiwanis, August 16-18, 1946. Another family camp was held in 1947.

With the purchase and development of Camp Bethany better facilities will be available and the camping program for all age groups will be enlarged.

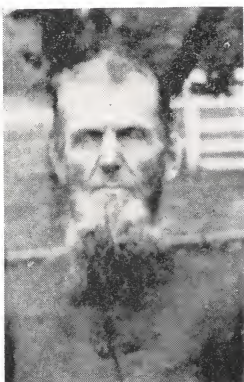
Biographies

The aim in the biographical section is to give as much information as space allows with no attempt at polished literary style. The short biographies can only inadequately tell of the sacrificial service done for the church. There is not space to include biographies of many who, throughout their lives, gave faithful service in the church. We have tried to include biographies of all the elders and ministers who helped establish the churches in the District of Southern Illinois and directed the work through the years. Much credit has justly been given to the ministers, but credit also belongs to their wives whose faithfulness has made their work possible. We have not forgotten that, especially in the early days of the church, the deacons did an appreciable amount of work, but our space is limited; so was the information that could be collected through the questionnaires and otherwise. Many have mention in the book whose names do not appear in this section. Material for the biographies of missionaries was furnished by Anetta C. Mow.

HERBERT CLARENCE ALBRIGHT was born in Macon County, Illinois, on November 3, 1905, the son of Harvey and Orpha Nevinger Albright. He married Maude Mae Ashenfelter of Decatur, Illinois, May 25, 1927. One son was born to them. Brother Albright attended Mount Morris College, 1927-1928, and the University of Illinois, 1930-1932. He was baptized by D. Warren Shock in November 1919 and was elected to the ministry in March 1928. As part-time pastor he served

at Champaign, 1930-1932, at Girard, 1938-1941; at Cerro Gordo, 1941-1942. He was the district B.Y.P.D. president, 1924-1926, and has been active also in other capacities in local and district work.

JOHN ARNOLD was born in Mineral County, West Virginia, June 16, 1846, to Solomon and Susannah Wine Arnold. He married Mary Hendricks of Cerro Gordo, Illinois, on



JOHN ARNOLD

May 30, 1875; five sons and three daughters were born to them. A second marriage was to Lydia Heeter of North Manchester, Indiana, on June 12, 1892. When the Civil War broke out in 1861 he was left at the age of fifteen to care for his mother and the younger children. They moved to Allen County, Ohio, in 1864. There he was baptized by Elder Joseph Coffman on August 23, 1865. In March 1868 he came to Piatt County, Illinois, locating near La Place. Here he was elected a deacon on December 25, 1872, and a minister on

Thanksgiving Day 1876, and was ordained an elder in March 1897. He was a farmer preacher until 1916, when he moved to the village of La Place. He served on the district mission board, preached at many mission points and did much preaching in the small churches, always at his own expense. Several times he served on the Standing Committee, and was elder-in-charge of a number of churches. The Decatur church was organized under his eldership. He died in La Place on August 1, 1929.

ROBERT ATCHISON was elected to the ministry in the Romine church, near Salem, Illinois, in 1877. Later he

moved to Adams County, where he served in the Liberty and Concord congregations. His wife was Elizabeth Blickenstaff, daughter of Jacob Blickenstaff. They were the parents of four sons and three daughters. In 1890 he moved to Cerro Gordo, Illinois, where he died on December 5, 1893.

JOHN H. BAKER was born in Fayette County, Pennsylvania, on September 23, 1846. He was married to Sarah Cover, also of Pennsylvania, on September 3, 1868. To them were born two sons and four daughters. In December 1885 he came with his family to Fulton County, Illinois, and settled near Astoria. Soon after uniting with the Church of the Brethren in Pennsylvania he was elected to the office of deacon and soon afterwards to the ministry. His ordination to the eldership took place in the Woodland church near Astoria in 1889. He acted as elder-in-charge of five congregations in the district. During his more than forty years of service, most of which was in the period of the free ministry, he did much preaching throughout the district and worked on many committees. He preached his last sermon from a wheelchair. He died on September 5, 1915.

LELLAND MARION BALDWIN, the son of Charles Thomas and Barbara Wagoner Baldwin, was born in Fayette County, Illinois, December 26, 1897. He was baptized by Oscar Redenbo, on August 17, 1910. He married Maudie Fern McConkey of Lawton, Oklahoma, on June 5, 1927. One son and one daughter were born to them. He graduated from Greenville College, Illinois, in 1920, studied in McPherson College in 1927 and did graduate work at Warrensburg, Mis-



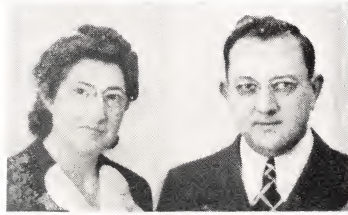
L. M. BALDWIN

souri, the summer of 1938. As a school administrator he served for seven years in Kansas and Arkansas. He was licensed to the ministry in the Hurricane Creek church, Illinois, August 27, 1922; installed at McPherson, Kansas, May 11, 1924, and ordained at Osceola, Missouri, November 4, 1939. He gave part-time pastoral services to the Osceola, Nevada, and Deepwater churches in Missouri in connection with teaching positions from 1934 to 1941. From 1941 to 1945 he was pastor at La Place, Illinois; 1945-1948, pastor, Olivet church, Ohio; 1948—, pastor, Morrill, Kansas. He has been active in camp work and has conducted fifteen evangelistic meetings.

OTTO BALDWIN, born in Fayette County, Illinois, on March 17, 1894, is the son of Charles and Barbara Wagoner Baldwin. He married Elizabeth Schoen of Edgewood, Illinois, July 23, 1930; one son was born to them. Brother Baldwin received a B.S. degree at Mount Morris College and did graduate work at the University of Illinois. He taught school twenty-five years in Illinois. He was baptized by Elder N. H. Miller on August 28, 1921. Elected to the ministry in Bond County, Illinois, on October 28, 1945, he served the Martins Creek and Romine churches, 1945-1946. His present residence is in the West Eel River congregation in the District of Middle Indiana, where he farms and assists the church as a supply pastor.

WILBUR M. BANTZ was born in Carroll County, Tennessee, June 23, 1900, the son of C. M. and Carrie Oren Bantz. He married Martha Blessing of Dayton, Ohio, on June 29, 1918. They have one son and one daughter. He was baptized by D. M. Garver in 1911. His A.B. degree was received from Manchester College; one year at Bethany Biblical Seminary was followed by study at Crozer Theological Seminary, from which he graduated with a B.D. degree. Elected

to the ministry in September 1924, he was ordained as an elder in 1930. His pastoral service is summarized: Fort Wayne, Indiana, 1925-1927; Wilmington, Delaware, 1929-1934; Thornville, Ohio (Olivet church), 1934 - 1936; Toledo, Ohio, 1936-1945; Decatur, Illinois, since 1946. He was an



WILBUR BANTZ
AND WIFE

area supervisor for Civilian Public Service, 1945-1946. He has been a Standing Committee delegate three times.

CHRISTIAN BARNHART, son of Daniel and Catharine Brubaker Barnhart, was born near Salem, Virginia, January 18, 1847. He came to Woodford County, Illinois, when a young man. On February 8, 1872, he married Sarah Elizabeth Brown. A few years later he moved to Mansfield, Illinois, and in 1919 to Pendleton, Indiana. Accepting Christ at the age of twenty-one, he was called to the ministry early in life. He died on June 20, 1927.

JOHN BARNHART, the son of Elder Daniel Barnhart, was born in Roanoke County, Virginia, May 4, 1830. He was married to Artemecia Hurst of Salem, Virginia, on February 6, 1851. With his wife and three children he moved to Woodford County, Illinois, in 1856. The next year he was elected deacon. On May 18, 1860, he was elected to the ministry and in 1862 was advanced to the second degree. After living in Woodford County ten years he moved to Urbana, Illinois, on February 6, 1866. In May of the same year he with his wife and eight others organized a congregation known as the Urbana church. Here he preached for four years, traveling mostly on foot and horseback and often going thirty miles to fill his appointments. Brother Barnhart held meet-

ings in forty different places in Champaign County and at twelve places in Piatt County. He moved near Mahomet, in the western part of Champaign County in 1870. Here, on May 3, 1878, the new congregation was founded with a membership of twelve. On September 7, 1878, Brother Barnhart was ordained elder of the Blue Ridge and Urbana churches. All these years he lived on a rented farm and supported his large family. Brother Barnhart was a very devoted Christian from the time he united with the Church of the Brethren on September 15, 1855. In 1893 he moved to Mansfield, Illinois, where he spent the last years of his life. He died in Mansfield, February 16, 1917.

JOSEPH OLIVER BARNHART, the oldest son of Isaac and Susley Bond Barnhart, was born near Liberty, Illinois, on February 2, 1865. When he was a boy of six years the family moved to Piatt County, Illinois, and lived at Milmine, La Place and Cerro Gordo. After graduating from high school at Cerro Gordo in 1886 he taught school for over twenty-five years. He united with the Church of the Brethren at Cerro Gordo when only a youth, at a time when there were but few of his age in the church. On April 19, 1908, he married Mrs. Mary Grant in Chesterville, Illinois. He was elected to the ministry in the Oakley congregation, November 27, 1919. Because of the lateness of the call to the ministry and the loss of his sight a few years later, his work in the ministry was seriously handicapped, although he had served in the pulpit in several churches in the district. He had a remarkable memory, a keen intellect and a vast store of Biblical and literary knowledge. The outstanding characteristics of his life were his poetic ability and his love of music. Over a period of years, many of his poems and hymns appeared in church periodicals and hymnals; also, one volume of his poems was published. He passed away at Decatur, Illinois, on May 14, 1941.

KENNETH C. BECHTEL was born at New Enterprise, Pennsylvania, in 1898. He graduated from Juniata Academy, 1920; Juniata College, A.B., 1925; Presbyterian Theological Seminary, B.D., 1931; Bethany Biblical Seminary, M.Th., 1933; University of Chicago, Ph.D., 1937. His wife is the former Catharine Mae Furrey of New Enterprise. He served as pastor at Girard, Illinois, 1934-1937, and at Sterling, Illinois, 1937-1946. He has been a teacher in McPherson College, Kansas, since 1946.

JONAS BECK, born in Carroll County, Maryland, May 30, 1848, was the son of George and Susanna Stone Beck. He married Margaret Webber on December 5, 1880. In 1871 he united with the Church of the Brethren, and was baptized by J. D. Hockteller at Panora, Iowa. The Woodland church of Southern Illinois called him to the ministry in 1885. He served in the free ministry as associate minister in the Woodland and Astoria congregations, where he farmed, did some evangelistic work in the district, and preached at various mission points. He died at Astoria, Illinois, on January 27, 1913.

A. J. BEEGLY was born in Somerset County, Pennsylvania, on May 30, 1872, the son of Daniel and Mary Schrock Beeghly. He married Cora M. Gnagy of Somerset County. Five sons and four daughters were born to them. He was baptized by J. Long in 1884; elected deacon, April 22, 1899; elected minister in the Walnut Grove church, Illinois. October 31, 1908; ordained an elder on May 27, 1916. He farmed about twenty years, then gave full time to pastoral and evangelistic work in Maryland and Pennsylvania. His present pastorate is in the Middle Creek church in Pennsylvania. Twice he served on Standing Committee.

ADAM L. BINGAMAN, born in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, July 14, 1844, was the son of George and Christi-

anna Landis Bingaman. He came to Illinois when a young man and united with the Church of the Brethren in the Cerro Gordo community, and was baptized by Elder Menno Stauffer, October 10, 1876. He was united in marriage to Barbara Ellen Miser of Oakley, Illinois, on October 19, 1873; to them were born four daughters. A veteran of the Civil War, he farmed in Piatt and Macon counties. In 1884 he was elected to the ministry in the Cerro Gordo church. He served the Oakley church for a number of years as a farmer-minister, and was the first Sunday-school superintendent in that congregation. He was ordained to the eldership on January 1, 1908. He served on the district mission board, preached at a number of mission points in the district, and officiated at many funerals and marriages. His last years were spent in Cerro Gordo, where he passed away on February 13, 1928.

FLORA NICKEY ROSS BJORKLUND was born near Oakley, Illinois, on May 5, 1881, the daughter of Amos and Mary Heckman Nickey. When eleven years old she united with the church at Oakley. In 1899 she went to Mount Morris College, where she studied for nearly four years. She was married to Amos W. Ross on June 12, 1902, near Juniata, Nebraska; they had four daughters. They served in the pastorate at Sterling, Colorado, 1903-1904. In 1905 they went to India and were stationed at Vyara from 1905 to 1913. In addition to her work of teaching she did a great deal of medical work. They started a successful boarding school at Vyara. During their first nine-year term of service about three hundred fifty were baptized;



FLORA
BJORKLUND

fifty were baptized on one Christmas Day. After their furlough they worked at Bulsar from 1915 to 1922; there she had charge of the widows' home. They returned to America on account of the health of Brother Ross, who, a few years later, died at their home in North Manchester, Indiana. Her second marriage was to John Bjorklund, on August 8, 1929. She continues active in the work of the church at North Manchester.

ANDREW BLICKENSTAFF, son of Elder Solomon and Mary Metzger Blickenstaff, was born in Clinton County, Indiana, June 27, 1876. Andrew was baptized by Elder L. T. Hol-



ANDREW BLICKENSTAFF AND WIFE

singer. He married Lillie Wheeler of Cerro Gordo, Illinois, on December 25, 1898. He took two years of academic work in Manchester College, two summer terms of normal training at Frankfort, Indiana, and one year at Bethany Biblical Seminary. Until 1904 he engaged in farming and teaching in Indiana. Elected to the ministry at Cerro Gordo on De-

cember 31, 1905, he was ordained to the eldership at McFarland, California, in 1911. He was full-time pastor at McFarland, 1918-1919, and presiding elder from the time of the organization in 1912 until 1947. Seven times he was a delegate on Standing Committee for the District of Northern California, was moderator of district conference five times, and from 1917 to 1941 was a member of the district mission board and the board of administration.

DAN L. BLICKENSTAFF, son of Levi and Martha Burgard Davis Blickenstaff, was born near Oakley, Illinois, November 11, 1901. He was baptized in the Oakley congregation



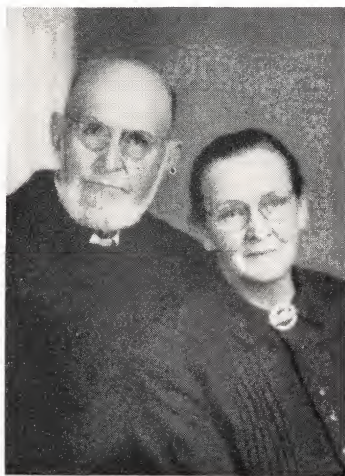
DAN L. BLICKENSTAFF
AND WIFE

by Elder S. G. Nickey on October 31, 1909. On January 23, 1925, he married Mabrye Ann Taylor of Plattsburg, Missouri. They have two daughters. For one year each he attended Bethany Training School, Mount Morris College, Oklahoma A. and M. College, and McPherson College, graduating from the latter school in 1945 with an A.B. degree. From 1920 to 1922 he was a rural schoolteacher. The

Oakley congregation licensed him to the ministry in 1938; he was installed in 1940 and ordained to the eldership on August 26, 1943. From 1940 to 1947 he was pastor in Texas, Oklahoma and Kansas. He was a delegate to Standing Committee in 1947. Since 1947 he has been a student at Bethany Biblical Seminary.

DAVID J. BLICKENSTAFF, son of Joseph and Catharine E. Replogle Blickenstaff, was born near Oakley, Illinois, August

25, 1868. On May 22, 1887, he was baptized by Amos J. Nickey. Elizabeth Frances Henricks of Cerro Gordo, Illinois, became his wife on March 24, 1892. She lived until February 3, 1929. One foster daughter was reared in this home. He married Susan Charlotte Hunter of Pleasant Mound, Illinois, on August 27, 1930. He attended Mount Morris College in 1890-1891, and again for six months of Bible work, 1899-1900; in addition he attended brief Bible terms at Mount Morris College, Manchester College and Bethany Biblical Seminary. Brother Blickenstaff was elected to the ministry in the Oakley church, November 1, 1895, and ordained to the eldership in the Hudson church, Hudson, Illinois, December 6, 1901. In the Oakley church he served in the free ministry for many years while farming. From 1901 to 1903 he was pastor at Hudson, Illinois. As elder-in-charge he served these churches: Hudson, Walnut Grove, Astoria, Cerro Gordo, Hurricane Creek, and Oakley—the latter for thirty-six years. He has served in various district offices: member, district mission board, nineteen years; member, district trustee board, three years; moderator, three times; reader, six times; secretary, twice. Four times he represented the district on Standing Committee. Since 1940 he has been a member of the district historical committee. He has attended fifty-five consecutive district meetings.



D. J. BLICKENSTAFF
AND WIFE

LEONARD BLICKENSTAFF was born in Montgomery County, Ohio, May 11, 1811, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Blickenstaff. He married Catherine Ulery; to them were born ten children. Leonard was elected to the ministry in the Middle Fork church near Rossville, Indiana. The family moved to Macon County, Illinois, settling on a prairie farm near Oakley in April of 1856. The parents were charter members of the first church organized by the Brethren in Macon County, which is now the Oakley congregation. His ministerial service was limited because his vocabulary and learning was in the German language. He died August 24, 1869.

LYNN A. BLICKENSTAFF was born near Cerro Gordo, Illinois, February 14, 1889, the son of David and Hannah Heckman Blickenstaff. He was baptized in 1900 at Cerro Gordo. Lynn attended Mount Morris College and La Verne College. He was married to Mary Brubaker of Indiana on May 25, 1912; they have three sons. For eleven years he was cashier of the First National Bank at La Verne, California. In India he had twenty-five years' experience in the field of mission administration and finance; eleven of those years he was manager of the Inter-Mission Business Office, an organization functioning for nearly every denomination carrying on mission work in



LYNN A.
BLICKENSTAFF

India. Because of his health he was forced to give up his work in India and returned to America in June 1948.

VERNA MABEL BLICKENSTAFF, the daughter of Levi and Barbara Wagoner Blickenstaff, was born January 31, 1891. After the death of her mother three years later, she lived

in the home of an uncle and an aunt. Before Verna was ten, her father married Mattie Davis. Verna was baptized by J. W. Lear, January 4, 1903. Following attendance at Mount Morris College she spent three years at Bethany Biblical Seminary and took nurses' training at the Illinois Training School for Nurses, graduating as R.N. in 1917. She then spent two years in nursing. Early in 1920 she sailed for India. For a number of years she was a member of the staff of the Dahanu mission hospital, after which she was the school nurse at the Woodstock school for two years. Then she was located at Bulsar, where she has charge of the nursing in the dispensary and hospital rooms. Very few know of the extra service she renders in an unassuming manner.



VERNA M.
BLICKENSTAFF

S. S. BLOUGH, a native of Somerset County, Pennsylvania, was born on April 27, 1868, the son of Emanuel J. and Sally Brandt Blough. On June 17, 1894, he married Mary Alice Wertz of Johnstown, Pennsylvania; they had three sons and one daughter. He united with the Church of the Brethren on June 12, 1886. Juniata College conferred on him a B.E. degree in 1893; Manchester College, an A.B. in 1915; Bethany Biblical Seminary, a B.D. in 1917. He taught common schools ten winters, then did pastoral work and Bible teaching at Manchester College, 1911-1918. Also he taught two county normal schools. Elected to the ministry on June 28, 1894, he was ordained to the eldership on May 2, 1902. Brother Blough was pastor at Astoria, Illinois, 1918-1921, and at Decatur, Illinois, 1921-1924. He has also held pastorates in Northern Illinois, Indiana, Ohio and Pennsyl-

vania. Six times he served as a delegate to Standing Committee. He was a member of the General Sunday-School Board, 1914, 1917, 1919, and of the General Ministerial Board, 1921-1925. He has conducted Bible institutes and evangelistic meetings in a number of church districts.

URIAS BLOUGH was born near Hudson, Illinois, March 6, 1872. His father was William Blough of Hooversville, Pennsylvania; his mother was Mary Magdalene Forney Blough



URIAS BLOUGH
AND FAMILY

of Berlin, Pennsylvania. He married Delia M. Johnson of Gridley, Illinois, February 17, 1897. One son and three daughters were born to them. In 1893 he was baptized by I. M. Gibson. Nearly two years were spent at Bethany Biblical Seminary. While farming at Hudson, he was elected to the office of deacon

in December 1903, called to the ministry in 1907, and ordained to the eldership on November 11, 1911. He was pastor and elder at Spring Run, 1909; Hurricane Creek, 1913; Romine, 1915. From Bethany Seminary he returned as pastor to Hurricane Creek in 1924. He was the pastor at Lakeland, Florida, 1928, and at Martins Creek and Romine, in Southern Illinois, in 1930. His death occurred on January 7, 1941.

ADONIJAH J. BOWERS was born February 9, 1837, in Tippecanoe County, Indiana. He married Ruth Raper of Darlington, Indiana, on August 8, 1859. Ten children were born to them. He united with the Church of the Brethren in 1862, was elected to the ministry in 1863 and ordained to the eldership in 1882. In 1873 he moved to Illinois, locating near St. Joseph in Champaign County, where he engaged

in farming and church work. He did much preaching and pioneer work in Urbana, Mahomet, Thomasboro and various other places in Southern Illinois. He returned to Indiana about 1898 and died there on September 8, 1912.

PETER BOWERS, son of John and Hannah Emfield Bowers, was born in Indiana County, Pennsylvania, September 29, 1821. He married Mary Brown of Morrison's Cove, Pennsylvania, on December 4, 1845. Three sons and five daughters were born to them. He united with the Church of the Brethren about 1860 and was elected to the ministry soon after his baptism, while living in Iowa. In 1864 he moved to Henry County, Indiana, and in 1869 to Richland County, Illinois, where he died on February 18, 1922, at the age of one hundred years.

ERNEST EVERETT BOWMAN began his pastoral work at the Virden church in Southern Illinois on September 1, 1949. He came to this district from Roann, Indiana, where he had served as pastor seven years. His parents were William W. and Elnorah Rhinesmith Bowman, both of LaGrange County, Indiana. He was born June 17, 1914, in Elkhart County, Indiana. His marriage to Elsie Miller of Bristol, Indiana, took place on November 28, 1934. They have one son. He was baptized in 1924 and his election to the ministry occurred on September 13, 1941. He was graduated from Manchester College in 1945, and from Bethany Biblical Seminary in 1949.

HARRIETT HOWARD BRIGHT, daughter of John and Margaret Jenkins Howard, was born in Letcher County, Kentucky, February 14, 1912. She was baptized into the Church of the Brethren by M. A. Whisler at Peoria, Illinois, on Easter Sunday, 1946. She received an A.B. degree from Berea College, Kentucky, and an M.A. from George Peabody College,

in Tennessee; she studied one year at Bethany Biblical Seminary. For over three years she was a teacher of weaving and the supervisor of the dormitory at Berea College. She taught at various other places in Kentucky, North Carolina and Alabama. Harriett was married to J. Calvin Bright at Berea, Kentucky, May 26, 1945. She was an able assistant to her husband in their pastorate at Peoria, Illinois, 1945-1946. They joined the missionary staff in China in 1947.

J. CALVIN BRIGHT is the son of J. Homer and Minnie Minerva Flory Bright and was born at Liao Chow, China, on September 19, 1915. He was baptized by Pastor Yin in November 1926. On May 26, 1945, he married Harriett Howard at Berea, Kentucky. He graduated from Berea College, Kentucky, with a B.S. degree on June 1, 1943, and from Bethany Biblical Seminary with a B.D. on May 26, 1946. He was the religious director in the Japanese relocation center, Amache, Colorado, during the summer of 1944. On May 6, 1945, he was ordained a minister. He served as a student pastor at Elgin, Illinois, during the winter quarter of 1945, and as pastor at Peoria, Illinois, from May 1945 until June 1946, when he was approved by Annual Conference as a missionary to China. In 1947 the Brights went to their work in China.

URIAH S. BRILLHART was born near Summum, Illinois, May 6, 1870. On September 20, 1891, he was married to Lillie Mummert; nine children were born to them. His wife died on January 2, 1908. He united with the Church of the Brethren on September 1, 1897, was elected deacon on September 1, 1906, called to the ministry in 1907, and ordained an elder on October 29, 1914. In 1910 he moved to Quinter, Kansas. As pastor he served the Pleasant Grove church, Lawrence, Kansas, 1915-1917, and the Dorance church, 1917-1918. He lived near Abilene, Kansas, from

1918 to 1939; part of this time he was pastor of the Buckeye church. He died June 2, 1939.

B. F. BRITT, a resident of Adams County, Illinois, was called to the ministry in the Liberty church on December 2, 1882. The church was then under the care of Elder Daniel Vaniman. After serving in the Liberty and Loraine congregations a few years, he moved to Barry, in the Hadley Creek church, working for the district mission board.

CHARLES H. BRUBAKER was born on a farm near Virden, Illinois, August 25, 1873, the son of John and Mary Neff Brubaker. At the age of thirteen he was received into the Pleasant Hill church by baptism. In preparation for a career of teaching he attended Illinois State Normal at Bloomington. After teaching for a number of years in Illinois, he went to California in 1896, taught two years at Santa Barbara, then entered the state university at Berkeley, from which he graduated in 1906. In 1899 the Los Angeles congregation called him to the ministry. In 1906 he went to India; on the same boat was Ella Miller of Nappanee, Indiana, who was going to the same field. On September 4, 1907, Charles and Ella were married at Vada, India, where they continued to work until his sickness and death in October 1910. He was the first missionary of the Church of the Brethren to die while in service.



CHARLES BRUBAKER

CORA CRIPE BRUBAKER, daughter of George W. and Barbara Shively Cripe, was born near Lafayette, Indiana, March 19, 1877. When she was eight years old the family moved to Cerro Gordo, Illinois, where she was baptized when twelve years old. She attended several Bible school sessions at Mount Morris College, and also attended Moody Bible Institute. She assisted Alice J. Boone in the Chicago mission during the winter of 1893. The years 1894-1905 were spent in the Hastings Street Church of the Brethren mission. On July 26, 1905, she was married to Dr. O. G. Brubaker. They had one son and one daughter. In 1913 the Brubakers went to the China mission field, where they were stationed at Liao Chou until they returned to America in 1920. They now live at North Manchester, Indiana.



CORA CRIPE
BRUBAKER

D. M. BRUBAKER, the youngest of the six children of Daniel and Harriet Brubaker, was born in Clearfield County, Pennsylvania, October 22, 1858. He married Mary Bowser on November 23, 1879; to them four children were born. On January 20, 1878, he united with the Church of the Brethren. He was called to the ministry November 8, 1882, in the Chippewa church, near Orrville, Ohio. On June 16, 1900, he was ordained at Liberty, Illinois, where he had oversight of the church until 1907 and was resident pastor during that time. He also served in pastorates at Williamsport, Indiana, and Ashland and Wooster, Ohio. The last few years of his life were spent in semi-invalidism at Orrville, Ohio, where he died on July 7, 1943.

EVERETT E. BRUBAKER, son of Samuel S. and Mary Ann Harshbarger Brubaker, was born in Macoupin County, Illi-

nois, October 8, 1877. He married Laura E. Lear of Girard, Illinois, on January 25, 1899. To them were born two sons and four daughters. He was baptized by C. C. Gibson on February 11, 1888. With the exception of a few years in Texas, he farmed near Virden, Illinois. He was elected deacon at Virden in October 1905. A member of the district mission board of Southern Illinois for twenty-seven years, he served as secretary for a number of years.

EZRA H. BRUBAKER, son of Moses E. and Susannah Grisso Brubaker, was born in Roanoke County, Virginia, February 2, 1865. He was baptized by George W. Gibson on November 9, 1889. Elma R. Brubaker of Girard, Illinois, became his wife on December 27, 1888. Two sons and two daughters were born to them. His second marriage was to Etta Haynes Shively of Long Beach, California, on March 17, 1930. He was elected to the ministry in the Pleasant Hill church near Virden, Illinois, on May 1, 1907, and was ordained to the eldership in 1924. From 1907 to 1913 he served as a farmer-minister at Girard, Illinois, and from 1913 to 1930 at Virden. Since 1930 a resident of Long Beach, California, he has worked in the church there as a minister and elder.

HARVEY A. BRUBAKER, son of S. S. and Mary A. Brubaker, was born at Virden, Illinois, April 2, 1886. He graduated from Bethany Bible School and from Manchester College, and also attended the University of California. On August 15, 1912, he married Iva Lula Furrey at Columbiana, Ohio; they had three sons. On June 28, 1913, he was called to the ministry in the Zion Hill church, Ohio; in 1921 he was ordained. For one year he was pastor at New Philadelphia, Ohio; four years at Akron, Ohio; and nearly six years at Pasadena, California. In September 1925 he became pastor of the Oakland mission, California. He died in 1927.

ISAAC W. BRUBAKER, son of Abraham and Elizabeth

Eikenberry Brubaker, was born August 15, 1861, in Carroll County, Indiana. He was baptized by J. C. Murray about 1887. He married Rebecca Flora of Carroll County, Indiana, on March 28, 1885. Three sons and five daughters were born to them. One winter was spent at Mount Morris College and one at Manchester College. He was a farmer. Shortly after their marriage the Brubakers moved near Cerro Gordo, Illinois, and lived in the vicinity of Cerro Gordo and La Place until 1900, when they moved to Prairie City, Iowa. He was elected to the ministry at La Place in 1894 and ordained to the eldership in 1901. As a farmer-minister he served at La Place until 1900; was pastor and elder at Prairie City, Iowa, 1900-1910; pastor and elder, Grundy Center, Iowa, 1911-1916; pastor and elder, Prairie City, Iowa, 1917-1926; elder at Des Moines and Ankeny, Iowa, 1926-1937; pastor at Brooklyn, Iowa, 1935 to December 17, 1937, the date of his death. Three times he served on Standing Committee. He gave much successful evangelistic service to the church.



J. H. BRUBAKER

JOHN H. BRUBAKER, son of Jacob and Anna Frantz Brubaker, was born in Clark County, Ohio, May 15, 1852. About 1872 he united with the Church of the Brethren. He married Lizzie Neher of Virden, Illinois, in February 1875; two sons and three daughters were born to them. His second marriage was to Elizabeth Howe of Johnstown, Pennsylvania, in June 1909. He farmed in Macoupin County near Virden. Elected to the office of deacon in the Pleasant Hill church, February 10, 1883, he was called to the ministry, October 1, 1887, and ordained to the eldership in

1896. It is known to many that he gave to the District of Southern Illinois many years of faithful service, devoting much time to preaching throughout the district and at many mission points; he was for a long time the elder-in-charge of his home church and served on various district committees. Four times he represented the district on Standing Committee. He will be remembered because of his tender, appealing voice and his pleasing temperament. On December 17, 1936, he died at his home in Virden.

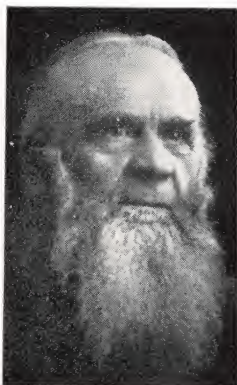
JONATHAN BRUBAKER was born in Clark County, Ohio, September 14, 1829. He united with the Church of the Brethren in this county when a young man. In March 1850 he married Susan Frantz; one son and five daughters were born to them. They came to Illinois by covered wagon in 1864, settling on a farm near Girard. He helped build the Pleasant Hill church house, was one of the early ministers of the congregation and also did preaching in Cass and Adams counties. He died August 1, 1921.

SAMUEL F. BRUBAKER, the son of John and Susan Flory Brubaker, was born near Salem, Virginia, in 1837. His wife was Martha Ann Obenchain; seven sons and two daughters were born to them. He had sufficient training for teaching in the rural schools. He was elected to the ministry in the Macoupin Creek church, June 17, 1876, and gave most of his ministerial service to that congregation. Here he passed away in 1910.

SAMUEL S. BRUBAKER was born in Darke County, Ohio, February 5, 1855, the son of Jacob and Anna Frantz Brubaker. In his youth he was baptized by Elder John Metzger. He married Mary Ann Harshbarger on September 28, 1876; three sons and three daughters were born to them. A farmer by occupation, living near Virden, Illinois, he was elected

deacon in October 1890; was a member of the district mission board from 1896 to 1904; a member of the district trustee board from 1904 to 1935; and was a member of the building committees for the Girard and Virden churches as well as for the Home at Girard. He died on September 27, 1937.

CYRUS BUCHER was born near Cornwall, Pennsylvania, July 28, 1845. After reaching the age of seventeen he taught seven terms of school in winter and worked on a farm in summer. On August 29, 1867, he married Barbara Dohner; to them two children were born. She died March 1, 1870. On November 27, 1870, he married Leah Gibbel. They became the parents of twelve children. He lived on his father's farm near Reistville, Pennsylvania, for twelve years, until 1882, when he brought his family to Fulton County, Illinois. Immediately he purchased a farm for a home, then added other land afterwards and became an extensive farmer and orchardist, having at one time seventy-five acres in fruit. In 1868



CYRUS BUCHER

he united with the Church of the Brethren, was elected to the ministry in 1883 and was ordained an elder in 1904. He served thirty-seven years as a minister in the Woodland and Astoria congregations. An earnest Sunday-school worker, he organized Sunday schools in schoolhouses before he was permitted to hold them in church houses. For seven years he supported a missionary in India. Seventy of his descendants are members of the Church of the Brethren. He died at Astoria on January 22, 1921.

SAMUEL G. BUCHER, son of Elder Cyrus S. and Leah Gibbel Bucher, was born near Reistville, Pennsylvania, June 18, 1872. When ten years old he came with his parents



S. G. BUCHER

to Astoria, Illinois. On October 7, 1894, he married Mary Elgin, who died November 4, 1932. They had ten children. He attended Mount Morris College in 1890. For four years he taught in the rural schools of Fulton County. He was a farmer and fruit-grower, having at one time forty acres in orchard. On November 29, 1894, he and his wife united with the Church of the Brethren. On September 11, 1900, he was elected to the ministry and on November 17, 1919, was ordained to the eldership.

He served in the free ministry for a number of years in the Woodland and Astoria congregations, also at a number of mission points in the district. For a time he was pastor of the North Solomon church, Kansas. He died June 30, 1937.

IDA BUCKINGHAM, daughter of David C. and Susie Wagner Buckingham, was born near Oakley, Illinois, August 7, 1886. She was baptized by A. G. Crosswhite on September 18, 1900. After attending Mount Morris College two years she taught for three years in the public schools. The years 1910-1913 were spent at Bethany Biblical Seminary; she received a B.S.L. degree in 1921. In 1913 she went to Sweden and served there until 1929, when she returned to her



IDA
BUCKINGHAM

home church at Oakley, where she now lives. Since then she has been in continuous work in her home church and most of the time has been a member of the district women's work cabinet; at present she is district director of peace. Since 1944 she has been a member of the district historical committee.

WILLIAM I. BUCKINGHAM, son of Frederick and Mary Ann Snyder Buckingham, was born near Oakley, Illinois, January 31, 1861. Early in life he united with the church at Oakley and was baptized by Elder Joseph Hendricks. On December 25, 1884, he married Catharine S. Nickey, of Carlisle, Pennsylvania. Two sons and two daughters were born to them. He attended two winter Bible terms at Mount Morris College. He was elected to the office of deacon at La Place, Illinois, in 1894; called to the ministry, December 7, 1897; ordained to the eldership, February 17, 1906. He farmed in Illinois and also at Prairie City, Iowa. His ministerial services were as follows: Worden, Wisconsin, 1906-1908; Prairie City, Iowa, 1908-1917; Union Ridge, Iowa, 1917-1923; elder at Prairie City, 1923-1941. He served once on Standing Committee. His death occurred on March 24, 1941. The family was unusually self-sacrificing and gave liberally to the church.

SOLOMON BUCKLEW, son of Philip and Kathryn Horner Bucklew, was born August 25, 1840, in Preston County, West Virginia. In 1859 he was baptized in the Cheat River near Briar Mountain by Elder S. A. Fike. His first marriage was to Elizabeth Strawser of Eglon, West Virginia, in 1862. Two sons and one daughter were born to them. His second marriage was to Mrs. Mary Sterner of Markleysburg, Pennsylvania, in 1914. He was a miller and blacksmith in West Virginia and a farmer near Canton, Illinois. Elected to the ministry in 1863, he was ordained to the eldership in 1864,

serving as follows: 1860-1872, pastor in the mountains near Brandonville, West Virginia; 1872-1885, pastor of the Salem and Markleysburg churches; 1885-1910, elder and pastor at Canton, Illinois; 1915-1923, elder and pastor at Morgantown, West Virginia. Also he held many revival meetings in West Virginia, Pennsylvania and Illinois; he baptized one hundred thirty-five in one year. Nine times a member of Standing Committee, he served on many district and Annual Meeting committees, and was elder-in-charge of a number of churches. He loved to sing and preach, and often addressed open meetings at Annual Conference. A great defender of the faith, he could hold his own with the best. His death occurred at Morgantown, West Virginia, on February 18, 1925.

JOHN F. BURTON was born in Madison County, Kentucky, January 29, 1881, the son of G. B. and Cornelia Goins Burton. He was married to Luella M. Robinson of Mansfield, Illinois, on October 12, 1902. A second marriage was to Emily D. Dyer of Chicago, Illinois, on January 12, 1918. He has three sons and two daughters. About two years were spent in Bethany Biblical Seminary. Baptized by T. A. Robinson in 1903, he was elected to the ministry in November 1907 and ordained to the eldership in December 1917. In a number of ways he has served the church: minister, Blue Ridge church, Mansfield, Illinois, 1907-1910; pastor, Indian Creek church, Maxwell, Iowa, 1911-1912; pastor, Des Moines Valley church, Elkhart, Iowa, 1917-1921; pastor and elder, Greene, Iowa, 1914-1915, 1921-1926; pastor, Trotwood, Ohio, 1926-1932; pastor, Lena, Illinois, 1933-1942; district supervisor, Northeastern Kansas, 1942-1944; pastor, Wiley, Colorado, 1946—. Three times he has been a Standing Committeeman. He has conducted over one hundred revival meetings.

CHARLES HOMER CAMERON began his pastoral work in the Canton church in Southern Illinois on September 1, 1949. He came to this district from the Grand Rapids church in



C. H. CAMERON

Michigan, where he served as pastor for four years. His parents were John B. R. and Florence Virginia Cameron. He was born January 23, 1892, at Salem, Virginia. His marriage to Orda I. Hanson took place on September 13, 1924, at Granite Falls, Minnesota. Both he and Mrs. Cameron taught in public schools and were engaged in commerce and travel previous to their active pastoral work. He attended Daleville College in Virginia, and the Sorbonne, a part of l'Universite de Paris, Paris, France. He was baptized in the

Peters Creek congregation, near Salem, Virginia, on July 9, 1909; in 1916 he was called to the ministry. His ordination to the eldership took place on January 20, 1940, at Long Beach, California. As pastor he served the Waterford church, Northern California, from 1940 to 1945. He has filled responsible positions of leadership in the districts of Southern California and Arizona, Northern California, and Michigan. He has represented each of these districts on Standing Committee and has been moderator of the district conference of each.

JOSEPH ELMER CAMPBELL, son of James and Nellie Ann Foster Campbell, was born in Kansas, December 16, 1909. Hazel Mae Groff of Bartlesville, Oklahoma, became his wife on January 6, 1931. Two sons and three daughters were

born to them. He was baptized on July 25, 1925; elected deacon in 1932; elected a minister, September 29, 1940; ordained an elder in October 1942. As part-time pastor he served the Romine church, 1940-1941, and as full-time pastor, 1941-1945. From 1945 to 1947 he was the pastor of the New Hope church in Southern Indiana. Since 1947 he has been pastor of the Reedley church, Northern California.

GEORGE G. CANFIELD is the son of Adrian M. and Amanda Northrop Canfield; he was born at Belleville, Kansas, on July 4, 1885. Of Methodist parentage, he became a member of the Methodist Church in 1904. In March 1908 he united with the Church of the Brethren. On October 17, 1906, he married S. Elizabeth Kinzie of Belleville, Kansas. They had two daughters. Brother Canfield's second marriage was to L. Mabel Pence, on May 26, 1936. He studied at McPherson College. The Belleville church called him to the ministry on May 21, 1910; he was ordained to the eldership in the Hickory Grove church, Northern Illinois, on October 6, 1919. His pastoral experience has been varied: Summerfield, Kansas, 1913; Hickory Grove church, 1918-1920; Freeport, Illinois, 1920-1926; Rockford, Illinois, 1926-1928; Marion, Ohio, 1928-1933; Plymouth, Indiana, 1933-1938; Richmond, Virginia, 1943-1944; Astoria, Illinois, 1944-1949. From 1938 to 1943 he served as evangelist for the General Mission Board. He has conducted nearly two hundred evangelistic meetings in thirty-one church districts, preaching over five thousand sermons.

LOUISA MABEL PENCE CANFIELD, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. S. J. Pence, was born on November 16, 1891, at Limestone, Tennessee. Early in life she became a member of the Church of the Brethren. Attending Washington College in Tennessee, there she completed the four-year Bible course in 1909. In Chicago, she studied voice with Dr. Clippinger;

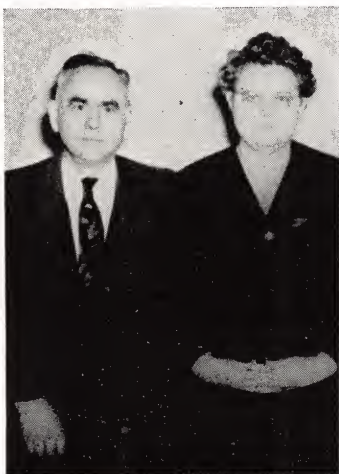
for several years she was a member of the Madrigal Club, and she gave vocal concerts in a number of states. For almost fifteen years, Mabel Pence taught at Bethany Biblical Seminary, most of the time as head of the department of music. After her marriage to Elder George Canfield on May 26, 1936, her musical ability was especially valuable as she assisted her husband in five years of evangelism (1938-1943) and in pastoral work.

ALVA GLENN CARR was born in Davis County, Iowa, on July 19, 1886; he was the son of Ora G. and Adeline Grant Coons Carr. On December 24, 1905, he married Jessie Ogden of Udell, Iowa. Two sons and two daughters were born to them. In 1916 he was baptized by Elder W. W. Glotfelty. He was elected to the deaconship in 1919 and to the ministry in 1921; in 1927 he was ordained to the eldership. In 1924 he ministered to the Middleburg church, Florida; from 1924-1928 to the Lakeland church, Florida; from 1928 to 1944 to the Libertyville church, Southern Iowa; from 1944 until his death on June 29, 1949, to the Allison Prairie church, Southern Illinois, during which time he served as elder-in-charge of the La Motte Prairie and Walnut Grove congregations. Twice he represented his district on Standing Committee.

ELLIS F. CASLOW, son of Stephen T. and Rebecca Fitz Caslow, was born in Guthrie County, Iowa, November 27, 1875. His marriage to Anna L. Hesse of Guthrie County took place on December 29, 1897. They had two sons. He attended Bethany Biblical Seminary, 1911-1912. For about twelve years, until 1910, he farmed, and from 1912 to 1914 he did carpentry work. On January 30, 1898, he united with the church and was baptized by Moses Deardorff. In 1902 he was elected to the ministry and in 1908 was ordained to the eldership. A summary of his ministerial activities follows: pastor, Panora, Iowa, 1899-1914; pastor, Grand Rapids,

Michigan, 1914-1918 and again, 1920-1921; evangelist and fieldman for Michigan, 1920-1921; pastor, Sterling, Illinois, 1922-1924; district fieldman and pastor at Woodland, Michigan, 1924-1925; pastor, Astoria, Illinois, 1925-1927; pastor, Virden, Illinois, 1927-1942. In 1942 he was forced to retire because of ill-health. Other contributions to the work of the church included serving as a member of Standing Committee five times and as district moderator and district reading clerk a number of times. Of his almost forty years of ministerial service, twenty-six years were devoted to the full-time ministry and twelve to the free ministry. In all these labors he was encouraged and helped by his faithful wife. His death occurred at the Home in Girard, Illinois, on October 4, 1949.

SAMUEL EDGAR CASTER was born in Decatur County, Iowa, June 13, 1899. His parents were John T. and Sarah Jane Eshelman Caster. He married Lorena Elizabeth Owens on July 15, 1930; to them were born two daughters. On October 10, 1916, he was baptized by Elder A. L. Sears. One year was spent in Mount Morris College and later he took some work in Bethany Biblical Seminary. He operated a canning factory for twenty-four years. Licensed to the ministry on August 21, 1937, he was installed in the Fairview church, Southern Iowa, on July 7, 1940. He was the assistant pastor about five years



SAMUEL E. CASTER
AND WIFE

in the Fairview church, Southern Iowa, supply pastor from January to June, 1945, in the Libertyville church, Southern Iowa; pastor of the Liberty and Camp Creek churches, Southern Illinois, from 1945 to 1950. The Casters have gone to Darlow, Kansas, to take charge of the Brethren Home.

DEWEY B. CAVE was born in Ogle County, Illinois, on May 4, 1898, the son of John F. and Mary Peterson Cave. He was baptized by C. Walter Warstler in March 1926. On



DEWEY B. CAVE
AND WIFE

December 25, 1920, he married Florence E. Long of Leaf River, Illinois. They had two sons and one daughter. His training included three years of the Howe Study Course in Ministerial Preparation and one year at Bethany Training School. He was licensed to the ministry in 1926, installed in 1927, and ordained an elder in 1935. A condensed statement of his work in the church follows: pastor, Garri-

son, Iowa, 1926-1928; pastor, Yellow Creek, Northern Illinois, 1929-1934; pastor, Liberty, Southern Illinois, 1934-1945; pastor and elder, Camp Creek, 1940-1945; elder, Astoria, 1941—; vice-president, Adams County Church Council, 1940-1945; ministerial secretary, Southern District of Illinois, 1944—; member, board of administration, 1945—; superintendent of the Home, 1945—.

ERNEST C. CAWLEY is probably better known for his connection with the Church of the Brethren in Canada than for his connection with Southern Illinois. He was born in

Woodford County, Illinois, March 21, 1888, the son of John William and Etta Ekiss Cawley. He married Pearl A. Switzer of Roanoke, Illinois, on May 27, 1909. Three sons and three daughters were born to them. He attended Mount Morris College and later took reading courses from the University of Alberta. He was baptized by Elder J. W. Switzer in May 1905, elected to the ministry in the Panther Creek church in May 1907, and ordained to the eldership in 1928. As a free minister he assisted in the Panther Creek church. As a part-time pastor he worked for a few years in the Walnut Grove and Martins Creek churches, Southern Illinois. For almost thirty years he was active in the ministry where he lived in Western Canada, until his death in 1949.

WALTER SCOTT COFFMAN was born in Fairplay, Maryland, December 4, 1898, the son of Charles D. and Estell Elizabeth Shafer Coffman. He was baptized by George E. Yoder on November 19, 1911. He married Edna Clark of Yakima, Washington, on August 17, 1930; they have one son and one daughter. His educational achievements include: graduation from Blue Ridge College in 1923; graduate work at the University of West Virginia and Northwestern University; graduation from Bethany Biblical Seminary in 1936. He was elected to the ministry on March 19, 1919, and ordained an elder in 1934. He taught five years in high school and held a summer pastorate in Michigan (1935). His full-time pastorates have been: Yakima, Washington, 1928-1934; Cerro Gordo, Illinois, 1936-1939; Fruitland, Idaho, 1939-1943; Glendale, Arizona, since 1943. Twice he has been a delegate to Standing Committee.

S. L. COVER, son of John C. and Mary A. Bucklew Cover, was born in Fayette County, Pennsylvania, in 1885. He was baptized by Silas Hoover in 1899. On August 19, 1908, he

married Dulcie L. Williams of Canton, Illinois. They had two sons and one daughter. He attended Manchester College, 1919-1921, and Bethany Biblical Seminary, 1929-1933. For seven years he taught school. Elected to the ministry on September 1, 1905, he was ordained an elder in 1907. His thirty-six years of pastoral service were begun at Canton in the Southern District of Illinois during the years 1907-1910. Later he served pastorates in Indiana, Ohio and Iowa; was elder of several churches and once was on the Standing Committee.

GEORGE W. CRIPE, son of David and Anna Kreider Cripe, was born in Darke County, Ohio, May 23, 1833. He was baptized by David Clark in 1858. On December 25, 1852, he



G. W. CRIPE

married Barbara Shively of New Paris, Indiana. They had four sons and eight daughters. Three times he was drafted for military service, but each time he parted with all his possessions rather than sacrifice his principles of peace. He organized the first Sunday school at Fairview, Indiana, and also the first Sunday school at Cerro Gordo, Illinois. After locating near Cerro Gordo in November of 1883 he built the State Bank building in 1884, a store building in 1887, numerous dwellings in the town and country, and the Allison Prairie church house in Lawrence County in 1878. Elected to the office of deacon in 1855 and to the ministry in 1857, he was ordained an elder in 1860. He labored at the following places: New Paris, Indiana, 1860-1870; Washington church, 1870-1876, minister and elder; Fairview, Indiana, 1876-1883, minister and elder; Milmine and Cerro Gordo

churches, Southern Illinois, elder, 1883-1885; Cerro Gordo, 1885-1901. He was a very successful evangelist in Indiana and Illinois during fall, winter and spring months, and also did much mission work for the district board, at one time having charge of four points in the Adams County mission field. A number of times he served on Standing Committee. He died in Cerro Gordo on July 22, 1901.

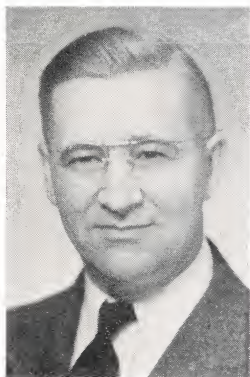
ISAAC H. CRIST was born near Springfield, Ohio, October 24, 1852. On September 3, 1863, his parents, John and Salome Frantz Crist, moved to Virden, Illinois. On March 7, 1871, he united with the Pleasant Hill church. He married Sarah Brubaker, of Girard, Illinois, on December 31, 1874. Seven children were born to them. He moved to the Clear Creek church, Christian County, February 25, 1879. On September 14, 1880, he was called to the ministry. In March 1881 he located near Olathe, Kansas. On November 24, 1888, he was ordained an elder by Elders Andrew Hutchison and S. S. Mohler. He opened up mission work in Kansas City, moved there in 1898, devoted all his time to it, organized the First church in November 1894, and continued his work there for twenty-six years.

NOAH SYLVESTER DALE, a native of Darke County, Ohio, was born on November 3, 1855, the son of Paul and Anna Heckman Dale. He married Ella Heckman of Livingston County, Illinois, on January 27, 1878. Three sons and four daughters were born to them. Elected to the ministry on October 1, 1894, he served as a farmer-preacher at Cornell, and at the Walnut Grove church in Richland County, Illinois. He died in Edwards County, Illinois, January 25, 1938.

HENRY DANNER was born in York County, Pennsylvania, October 9, 1806. He was elected to the ministry by the Pigeon Hill church, Pennsylvania. In 1865 he came to

Astoria, Illinois. He served about forty-eight years in the free ministry, and is said to have been a great reader of the Bible. "There was no dust on his Bible," said Elder Cyrus Bucher, who knew him.

WILLIAM A. DEARDORFF was born in Jasper County, Missouri, May 9, 1880, the son of Benjamin P. and Frances Tombaugh Deardorff. He married Maude M. Miller of North Manchester, Indiana, November 20, 1904. Three sons and two daughters came into their home. In July 1893 or 1894 he was baptized by Elder J. H. Wright. His parents were pioneer settlers in North Dakota in the early days. He studied at Bethany Biblical Seminary. He has been a farmer in North Dakota, a fruitgrower in Washington, and a carpenter. Elected a deacon on October 28, 1906, and a minister on July 5, 1908, he was ordained to the eldership on October 3, 1915. He has served the church as a minister in the states of North Dakota, Washington, Kansas, Iowa and Wisconsin. He was pastor at Woodland, Illinois, 1935-1937; and superintendent of the Home, Girard, Illinois, 1937-1941. He is superintendent of the Home at Mount Morris, Illinois, at the present time. Once he was a member of Standing Committee.



JAMES OLIVER
DEARING

JAMES OLIVER DEARING, the son of James Edward and Clellie Ann McCloney Dearing, was born in Crawford County, Illinois, September 22, 1908. He was married to Ellen Spivey on March 31, 1928. Three sons and three daughters were born to them. He took special courses at Johnson Bible College, Kim-

berlin Heights, Tennessee. First he united with the Baptist Church in 1921, and afterward with the Church of the Brethren, on March 27, 1932. He was elected to the ministry in April 1932 and ordained to the eldership in October 1936. He has worked in these capacities: half-time pastor, Kaskaskia, 1935-1943; half-time pastor, Walnut Grove, 1937-1943; full-time pastor, Walnut Grove, 1943-1946; pastor, Eversole, Ohio, 1946—; elder of the Kaskaskia, Walnut Grove, Pleasant Grove, and Romine churches; member of Southern Illinois board of administration; delegate to Standing Committee; evangelist in a number of congregations.

JOHN C. DEMY was of German Lutheran descent. His parents were Christian and Sarah Haverstake Demy. He was born in Dauphin County, Pennsylvania, September 7, 1832. On January 24, 1856, he married Mary Sellers of Lancaster, Pennsylvania. They became the parents of three sons and seven daughters. Brother and Sister Demy were baptized at Hanover, Pennsylvania, in 1861. In 1871 they moved to Edgar County, Illinois. He was elected to the ministry in 1873. In 1877 they moved to Astoria, where he organized the first Sunday school and superintended it for many years. He died at Astoria on March 15, 1914.

WILLIAM P. DILLON lived in Illinois for only a short time. He was born in Wayne County, Indiana, on January 17, 1905, the son of Frank M. and Grace Mae Miller Dillon. He was married to Bertha Wanda Good of Middletown, Indiana, on February 25, 1925. One son and one daughter were born to them. When he was eleven years old he united with the Church of the Brethren and was elected to the ministry at the age of eighteen. He conducted revival meetings in Illinois, Michigan, and Indiana; was pastor of the Allison Prairie church, Southern Illinois, from 1928 to 1931, and also

did some pastoral work at the Walnut Grove church during the same period of time. On May 28, 1937, he died in Henry County, Indiana.

CHARLES DUMOND, SR., son of Isaiah H. and Nancy Ellen McDonald Dumond, was born in Martin County, Indiana, July 3, 1897. He became a member of the Baptist Church in 1916; in April 1922 he was baptized into the Church of the Brethren by Elder J. C. Mitchell in the Maple Grove church, Indiana. He married Bertha Mae Mitchell of Brazil, Indiana, on October 26, 1919. To them were born one son and two daughters. Brother Dumond received a B.S.L. degree at Bethany Biblical Seminary. Elected to the ministry in 1925, he was ordained to the eldership in 1930. As a pastor he has served the following churches: Newton, Kansas, 1929-1933; Wiley, Colorado, 1933-1935; Sterling, Colorado, 1935-1937; Canton, Illinois, 1937-1942; Waterloo, Iowa, 1943-1949; Topeka, Kansas, 1949—. He has served as elder-in-charge of the Curlew and Union Ridge churches, Iowa; representative of Brethren service in Northern Iowa; Conference Budget fieldman in Northern Iowa; district meeting moderator several times; evangelist in a number of districts.

GEORGE W. EAVEY was born in Rockingham County, Virginia, on March 22, 1855, the son of Michael and Barbara Arion Eavey. He married Emma J. Riggle on April 4, 1880. One son and two daughters were born to them. He was a farmer and a gardener. He united with the Church of the Brethren in 1874 and was baptized by Elder Martin Miller. After his election to the ministry, probably in 1887, he served the Walnut Grove church, Illinois, from 1887 to 1898, the Sugar Creek church, Ohio, from 1898 to 1937, and also did some preaching in Virginia, Indiana, and Missouri.

ROBERT EDGECOMB was a pioneer leader in the District of Southern Illinois. A native of the state of New York, he

came to Lima, Ohio, and later to Piatt County, Illinois, where he served in the ministry in the early days of the La Place church. In 1875 he moved near Girard, Kansas, and soon organized the Osage church. The Edgcombs were the parents of four boys and four girls.

AMOS R. EIKENBERRY was born in Piatt County, Illinois, on January 16, 1889. His parents were John and Mary Clingenpeel Eikenberry. He grew up in the vicinity of La Place, Illinois, and was baptized by Jacob Wyne in November 1903. Elizabeth Wagoner became his wife on May 2, 1909; they have one son and one daughter. His education was received in the following schools: Bethany Biblical Seminary, 1909-1911; A.B., Mount Morris College; B.S., University of Illinois; M.S., Ohio State University; University of Chicago, two quarters; Columbia University, one quarter. Most of his work has been teaching: Mount Morris College, professor of agriculture, 1917-1918; Manchester College, professor of agriculture, 1918-1922; professor of psychology, 1922-1947; dean of men, 1938-1946; assistant business manager since 1946. He was elected to the ministry at La Place, on May 15, 1909; in 1917 he was ordained to the eldership. Ministerial service has been given at La Place, 1909-1913; South Whitley, Indiana, 1925-1928; Liberty Mills, Indiana, 1933-1937.



LORREL S. EIKENBERRY, son of T. S. and Beulah Minnich Eikenberry, was born in Darke County, Ohio, August 27, 1915. On June 8, 1941, he

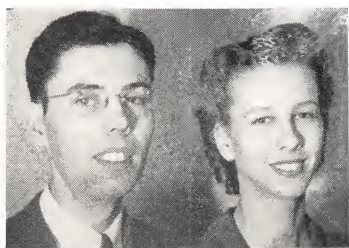
LORREL EIKENBERRY
AND WIFE

married Nelda Maxine Rhoades. He united with the Church of the Brethren on December 21, 1924, with Elder William Royer administering baptism. His B.S. degree was received from Manchester College and a B.D. from Bethany Biblical Seminary, 1949. His vocational experiences have been varied: advertiser, Dayton, Ohio, 1934-1938; public school teacher in Ohio, 1939-1943; C.P.S. assignee, Camp Walhalla; member N.S.B.R.O. office staff, Washington, D.C., 1943-1946; United Nations relief and rehabilitation assistant, 1946. He was elected to the ministry on August 18, 1946, and has been the pastor of the Peoria church since May 1, 1947.

ALLIE STUTSMAN EISENBISE was born near Goshen, Indiana, April 30, 1866, the daughter of John S. and Lucinda Tracey Stutsman. She was married to Clinton S. Eisenbise on February 9, 1887. Two sons were born to them. She united with the Church of the Brethren on October 18, 1877, and was baptized by Elder Daniel Vaniman. After teaching in Nebraska she attended and graduated from Bethany Biblical Seminary. Her husband and their son, Forrest, were called to the ministry by a tie vote at Beatrice, Nebraska, in 1914. She was district secretary in Nebraska for three years. In 1912 she began her ministerial service at Beatrice. Later she served in the Pleasant Plains church, Nebraska, and in the Springfield and Champaign congregations in Southern Illinois. She preached in sixty churches from the Atlantic to the Pacific, also in Mexico and Canada. For six years she was a teacher in the Chinese Sunday school in Chicago. She died at the Home in Girard, Illinois, on July 24, 1949.

LELAND BRINLEY EMRICK, son of Chester D. and Mabel Brinley Emrick, was born in Preble County, Ohio, March 20, 1917. In 1926 he was baptized by Ira Blocher. He married Ernestine Hoff of Elgin, Illinois, on May 31, 1941. He received a B.S. degree from Manchester College, 1939;

an M.A., Ohio State University, 1940; a B.D., Bethany Biblical Seminary, 1945. The summer of 1945 he took clinical training at the Elgin, Illinois, State Hospital. For a few years he was a high school teacher. He was elected to the ministry on March 31, 1942, and installed into the eldership on September 30, 1946. He served as week-end and summer pastor at Robins, Iowa, 1943-1944; since 1945 he has been pastor at Springfield, Illinois.



LELAND EMRICK
AND WIFE

NIELS ESBENSEN began his pastoral work at the Champaign church in Southern Illinois on September 1, 1949. He came to this district from Northern California. He was

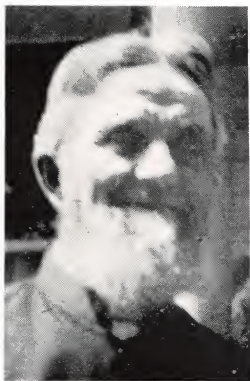


NIELS ESBENSEN
AND WIFE

born May 13, 1891, to Christian and Martine Nybo Esbensen, in Denmark. Christine Bendsen became his wife on July 1, 1915. To them were born two sons and two daughters. He attended Bethany Biblical Seminary, 1918-1920. Farming, carpentry and selling have claimed some of his efforts. He was baptized by Martin Johansen on August 15, 1906. His contribution to the work of the church has been varied: missionary in Denmark, 1920-1924; pastor, Freeport, Illinois, 1928-1937; pastor, Empire, California, 1937-1942; pastor and elder,

Hartville, Ohio, 1942-1944; pastor and elder, Pine Creek, Indiana, 1944-1945; missionary in Denmark and Sweden, 1945-1947; pastor, Chico and Paradise, California, 1948-1949; Standing Committeeman from Northern California, once; moderator of district meeting; trustee of La Verne College; presiding elder of several churches.

DAVID EMMERT ESHELMAN was born at Welch Run, Franklin County, Pennsylvania, on April 16, 1856. His parents were Daniel and Lucy Long Eshelman. He married Barbara Mummert in February 1915.



D. E. ESHELMAN

To them were born one son and three daughters. He attended Western College and, later, Mount Morris College, 1880-1881. He was baptized by Samuel Tennis in 1877, elected to the office of deacon in 1878, elected to the ministry in 1914, and ordained to the eldership in 1920. For eighteen years he was a farmer and also taught school in Fulton County. As a free minister he preached in the Woodland, Spring Run, Oak Grove and Canton churches. In April 1939 he went to the Home at Girard; while there he assisted in services when called upon. He died at the Home on January 16, 1946.

LESTER E. FIKE was born at Eglon, West Virginia, on July 10, 1897, the son of Phineas L. and Sarah Beachy Fike. He was united in marriage to Elna Hylton of Ava, Missouri, June 3, 1923. Two daughters were born to them. On August 16, 1909, he was baptized by his father. He holds a B.S.L. degree from Bethany Biblical Seminary. Elected to the office of deacon in December 1916, he was called to the min-

istry on April 6, 1918, and ordained to the eldership on August 22, 1928. His work in the church has been varied:

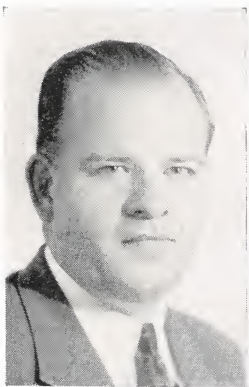


LESTER FIKE AND FAMILY

pastor in West Virginia, Pennsylvania, Indiana, Missouri, New Mexico, and Ohio. From 1937 to 1944 he was pastor at Astoria, Illinois. He has served as an evangelist in twelve different states; Standing Committee delegate, four times; moderator of district meetings.

BENJAMIN F. FILBRUN was a native of Ohio. The son of Joseph and Lydia Frantz Filbrun, he was born on May 3, 1860. He married Alice Denlinger on December 24, 1882. Two sons and one daughter were born to them. An architect by trade, he was elected to the ministry in the Donnels Creek church, Ohio, about 1890. He came to Illinois about 1896, locating near Auburn in the Sugar Creek church, where he served until 1907. Later in life he lost fellowship with the Church of the Brethren. He died on August 23, 1941.

RALPH THEODORE FINNELL was born at Des Moines, Iowa, January 10, 1912. His parents are Virgil Carl and Lucinda Alice Pugh Finnell. On September 3, 1934, he married Vera Elizabeth Hartsough of North Manchester, Indiana; to them were born one son and one daughter. He received an A.B. degree from Manchester College in 1933, and a B.D. from Bethany Biblical Seminary in 1936. He united with the Church of the Brethren at Elgin, Illinois, and was elected to the ministry at North Manchester, Indiana. In various capacities he has contributed to the church program: camp leader, Camp Alexander Mack, Indiana, and Camp Lewistown, Illinois; president, Middle Indiana young people; president, Wabash County, Indiana, young people (interdenominational). From 1935 to 1937 he was pastor at Springfield, Illinois.



RALPH FINNELL

CHARLES KENNETH FISHER, the son of Charles Ernest and Ruby Irene Benson Fisher, was born in Lawrence County, Illinois, on August 22, 1932. He was baptized by Elder N. H. Miller in 1932. His marriage to Blanche Ruth Ducharm took place on August 23, 1940. To them were born two sons and twin daughters. In 1939 he was licensed to the ministry by the Allison Prairie church; in 1944 he was ordained by Elders Dolar Ritchey and Oliver Dearing. He served part-time in the ministry in the Kaskaskia church, Illinois, and then began his present full-time pastoral service in the Buck Creek church, Indiana, in February 1944.

MAX WILLIAM FISHER was born in Knox County, Indiana, May 27, 1924, the son of Clarence and Ruby Benson

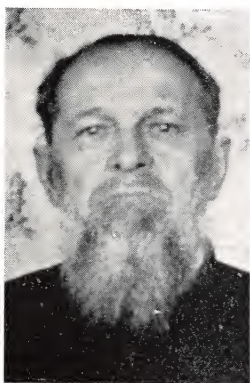
Fisher. He was united in marriage to Anna Belle Shoulders of Flat Rock, Illinois, on August 2, 1942; they have one son and one daughter. He was baptized by Elder Dolar C. Ritchey. In August 1947 he was installed into the ministry and his wife was licensed by the Allison Prairie church. They are now pastors of the Smith Creek church, West Virginia.

CONRAD FITZ was born in York County, Pennsylvania, December 23, 1848. In 1850 he moved to Fulton County, Illinois, with his father, John Fitz, and family. He was married to Susan Shields in 1873; they were the parents of six children. He joined the church in 1869; was called to the ministry on June 14, 1881; was ordained to the eldership on February 1, 1894; and was chosen elder of the Woodland church on March 7 of the same year. The Sugar Creek and Camp Creek churches, Illinois, have also had his services as elder-in-charge. For twenty years he was associated with the work of the District of Southern Illinois. He gave forty-three years to the work of the church with the following record: moderator of district conference four times; reading clerk seven times; Standing Committee delegate five times. He moved to the West in 1899 and served a number of churches in Nebraska, Washington, Oregon, and Colorado. He died February 17, 1921, in the house of worship in Denver, Colorado. He was socially inclined, deeply spiritual, calm, and deliberate in his judgment. His counsel in church matters was frequently sought; he had a happy faculty of encouraging youth.

JOHN FITZ moved to Illinois from York County, Pennsylvania, in 1850. He had ten children. They cleared the farm near the place where the Woodland church now stands, and a part of the farm was given for the cemetery beside the church. The first meetings held by the church organiza-

tion were held in the barn of Brother Fitz; meetings were held all day and meals were served. He was chosen as the first minister of the Woodland church after that building had been erected. His last days were spent in Astoria, Illinois.

MICHAEL FLORY was born at Dayton, Virginia, July 26, 1849, the son of Michael and Nancy Warner Flory. He was baptized at Rossville, Indiana, in 1880. On November 24,



MICHAEL FLORY

1869, he married Mary Warner; to them were born six sons and four daughters. His second wife was Lavina Bowman, whom he married on October 7, 1924. He farmed in Indiana and Illinois, and later moved to Girard, Illinois, to engage in the lumber business. He was elected to the ministry at Rossville and ordained to the eldership at Girard, in 1891. As minister and elder he served these two churches, and was for three and one-half years the pastor at Decatur. He was the first superintendent of the Home at Girard. He served

in district meetings as moderator and reader, held many evangelistic meetings, and officiated at many marriages and funerals. His death occurred at Girard on June 23, 1931.

ANNA SHULL FORNEY was born to George and Elizabeth Brubaker Shull on January 9, 1871. Early in life she united with the Church of the Brethren. On January 1, 1896, she married Daniel L. Forney of North Manchester, Indiana; six daughters were born to them. She took a teacher's course and three years of Bible study at Mount Morris College, finished the Bible course at Manchester College, and

taught in country schools. She and her husband did mission work at Stuttgart, Arkansas. They went to the India mission field in 1897 and located at Navsari. When the famine broke out in 1900 they cared for a number of famine children. When the mission house at Jalalpor was completed, they moved there, remaining at that place until their return to America in 1904 because of health conditions. Later they spent another and shorter term of service in India. Mrs. Forney died at La Verne, California, on April 13, 1938.



ANNA SHULL
FORNEY

ELLEN HECKMAN WAGONER FORNEY was born near Hammond, Illinois, September 23, 1885; her parents were David and Elizabeth Miller Heckman. She grew up in the Oakley church, and was baptized there by Elder A. J. Nickey on July 11, 1896. Ellen could not remember when she was not interested in the work of the church. Her desire to be a missionary grew from her interest in Sunday-school and missionary reading circle work. One year at Mount Morris College was followed by two years at Bethany Biblical Seminary. On March 5, 1911, she married Elmer Wagoner of La Place, Illinois, and for a year their home was in the La Place congregation. They lived at Mount Morris from



ELLEN FORNEY

1913 until 1917, when they entered Bethany Biblical Seminary. They had two daughters. After a year at Bulsar in language study they were transferred to Vyara. A year later they returned to Bulsar to take over the work when

A. W. Ross and family went on furlough. Besides being a central point for entertaining missionaries and guests, Bulsar was the home of a boys' school. In the spring of 1927 the Wagoners left India for their first furlough; because of a deficit in mission funds they were detained in America until October 1929. During this time they served the Peebles and Marble Furnace churches in Southern Ohio. Returning to Vyara in 1929 they did traveling evangelistic work, living in tents. Brother Wagoner passed away on November 21, 1930. Returning to America a year later, Mrs. Wagoner worked in Elgin and visited churches. In 1941 she married Elder Daniel L. Forney of La Verne, California. She served as regional director of women's work in California for three years. Ellen passed away on November 21, 1947.

JOHN CLAYBORN FORNEY was the son of David and Nancy Rice Forney. He was born near Parkersburg, Illinois, December 28, 1866. He married Effie Mae Lynn of Bellflower, Illinois, on December 10, 1890; two sons and six daughters were born to them. They also made a home for two orphan boys. He was a farmer. Uniting with the Church of the Brethren, probably in January 1886, he was baptized by Elder Menno Stouffer. Elected to the ministry in 1892, he was ordained to the eldership in December 1902. As a free minister he served in the Walnut Grove church near Parkersburg, Illinois, for ten years and at Columbus, North Dakota, two and one-half years. As pastor and elder he was at Kenmare, North Dakota, nine years, at Rock Lake, North Dakota, seven years, and at Winona, Minnesota, twelve years. Twice he was a member of Standing Committee. He died at Winona on August 10, 1936.

MICHAEL FORNEY, the son of Elder John Forney, was born near Meyersdale, Pennsylvania, January 14, 1811. He married Rachel Horner of Pennsylvania and to them were

born four sons and six daughters. He was a farmer, a cooper and a tanner, and also operated a cider press. When twenty-two years old he united with the Church of the Brethren. From 1863 to 1871 he had the oversight of the Big Creek (now Walnut Grove) church, Illinois. He assisted in the organization of some surrounding churches and did much preaching in adjoining territory. He died in Fillmore County, Nebraska, on March 20, 1894.

SAMUEL M. FORNEY was born in Somerset County, Pennsylvania, October 23, 1836. His father and his grandfather were elders in the Church of the Brethren. Some normal training at Berlin and Meyersdale prepared him for teaching when he was nineteen years old. In 1857 he moved with his father to Richland County, Illinois. In 1859 he was converted while attending a meeting at the Arnold's Grove church. Upon his return home that fall he was present at the organization of the Big Creek (now Walnut Grove) church, and on September 24, about three months after his baptism, he was called to the ministry. Calls for preaching came from as far as thirty to seventy-five miles from home; swollen streams and dangerous journeys were frequent experiences. In 1862 he was married to Catherine Kimmel; to them were born eight children. In 1871 Brother Forney was ordained an elder. In 1881 the family moved to Kearney, Nebraska, where, on May 28 of the same year, he organized a church. He assisted in organizing eight other churches in that state, and served on Standing Committee three times. He traveled thousands of miles in church work, received on an average less than his expenses. Looking back over nearly a half-century of service in the ministry, he only wished that he had more time to serve better.

DAVID FOUTS is the son of David H. and Mary Ann Edgecomb Fouts; he was born at Prairie City, Iowa, Novem-

ber 2, 1906. Mary Ann Driver of Lima, Ohio, became his wife on July 2, 1933. They have one son



DAVID
FOUTS

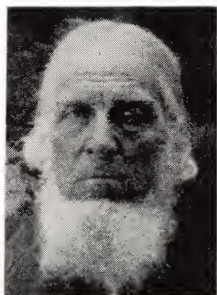
and three daughters. He united with the Church of the Brethren in 1922, and was baptized by his father. His education was gained at Manchester College and Bethany Biblical Seminary. In 1933 he was elected to the ministry; he was ordained to the eldership in 1945. The following pastorates have been his fields of work: Logansport, Indiana, 1939-1942; Virden, Illinois, 1943-1949; Freeport, Illinois, 1949—. He represented the District of Southern Illinois once on Standing Committee and served

in various lines of district activity.

SAMUEL S. FOUTS was a native of Carroll County, Indiana; he was born on February 20, 1852, to Daniel and Katherine Pippenger Fouts. He married Elizabeth Ulery of Piatt County, Illinois, on June 21, 1885; three sons came into their home. On April 20, 1919, he married Mrs. Rachel Bula of Iuka, Illinois. For a number of years he taught school in Marion County, Illinois, but was engaged in farming and stock-raising most of his life. About 1888 he united with the Church of the Brethren, and was elected to the ministry in the Salem church, Illinois, about 1893. A division of church territory placed him in the Romine congregation, near Salem, in which he served as pastor and elder. He died in Marion County on October 22, 1928.

DAVID FRANTZ was born on October 1, 1817. On February 8, 1840, he married Sarah Heck; to them six sons and four daughters were born. His wife died on February 8, 1864. He married Elizabeth Henricks on April 16, 1865. He located on a farm near the Oakley church and made part

of the brick from which the church house was built. He was considered a successful farmer. In 1858 the church elected him to the ministry. From 1884 to 1892 he was the elder-in-charge of the Oakley church. A clear thinker, somewhat slow in delivery, he always had a profound message. He did much organizational work in the district. His death occurred at Cerro Gordo on March 5, 1905.



DAVID FRANTZ

GEORGE FULK, the son of John G. and Sarah Wine Fulk, was born in Rockingham County, Virginia, November 9, 1878. He was united in marriage to Cora I. Deck of Decatur, Illinois, on May 30, 1916; they became the parents of one son and four daughters. He was baptized by Elder Daniel Turner in December 1901. His A.B. degree was received from DePauw University; a three-year law course was completed in the Chicago Kent College of Law and the Northwestern University Law School; then followed three years of private study under various law firms in Chicago. He attended lectures and studied in American and European universities for four years, promoting world peace. During the year 1901-1902 he taught Latin and Greek in Ashland College, Kentucky. He worked as a law clerk and practiced law in Chicago from 1902 to 1905. Since 1905 he has lived near Cerro Gordo and Bethany, Illinois. In addition to active farming he was the Illinois Superintendent of Public Welfare in Moultrie County, 1936-1943. To the church he rendered much service from 1905 to 1944 at Cerro Gordo and Bethany, Illinois, and at Washington, D. C. In 1922 he engaged in a speaking tour among churches in the eastern states. He delivered the Conference address on world peace at Lincoln, Nebraska, in 1926. He has served as a delegate

to peace conferences in the States and to the World Peace Conference at Geneva, Switzerland.

MERLIN ESTES GARBER is a Virginian; he was born in Augusta County on March 26, 1912, the son of John C. and Sadie Houff Garber. He was baptized by his father in 1921. His marriage to Dorothy Faw of Winston-Salem, North



MERLIN E. GARBER
AND WIFE

Carolina, took place on June 3, 1934. They have one son and one daughter. After attending Bridgewater College from 1932 to 1934, he received an A.B. degree from the University of Illinois in 1937 and an A.M. degree in 1939. He graduated from Bethany Biblical Seminary in 1941 with a B.D. degree and was a summer student at Yale University in 1945. His election to the ministry occurred on May

27, 1932. While he was living in Southern Illinois he was ordained to the eldership. From 1934 to 1949 he was the pastor at Champaign, Illinois; since 1949 he has served the Central church of Roanoke, Virginia. Twice he was the Standing Committee delegate from Southern Illinois. From 1935 to 1939 he was the adult adviser of the youth of this district. As a member of the board of administration and the district ministerial committee, as moderator of district meeting, and as an evangelist, he made additional contributions to the district.

SOLOMON WINE GARBER, the son of Abraham D. and Magdalene Wine Garber, was born in Augusta County, Virginia, on April 25, 1849. He was married to Catharine

Susan Harnsberger of Augusta County on September 21, 1876; three sons and two daughters were born to them. He united with the Church of the Brethren on September 14, 1866. During the year 1890-1891 he was a student and a teacher at Bridgewater College. He was elected deacon on May 14, 1879; elected to the ministry on August 20, 1881; ordained to the eldership on January 16, 1897. From 1876 to 1894 he was a farmer and teacher in Augusta County and from 1894 to 1902 did the same type of work in Lawrence County, Illinois; from 1902 to 1906 he was a grocer in Decatur, Illinois; from 1906 to 1910 he farmed again in Lawrence County. After giving many years in the free ministry he became the part-time pastor at Decatur, Illinois, 1902-1906. Other pastorates were: Ottumwa, Iowa, 1916-1919; Cedar Rapids, Iowa; Plattsburg, Missouri, 1921-1923; Conway Springs, Kansas, 1923-1925. Three times he served on Standing Committee. He died January 26, 1934.



S. W. GARBER

PAUL J. GIBBEL was the son of Abraham and Emma Brubaker Gibbel; he was born near Hemet, California, March 29, 1896. In 1900 his parents moved near Girard, Illinois. He was baptized when eleven years old, and was elected to the ministry in the Virden congregation in 1917. After receiving an A.B. degree from Mount Morris College in 1920, he attended the University of Iowa from 1920 to 1923; his M.D. degree was granted by the University of Illinois in 1925. The following year he served his internship in the Frances Willard Hospital in Chicago. On June 9, 1926,

he married Verda Hershberger; they left for the mission field in Nigeria in September 1926. Besides carrying on the medical work at Garkida he had charge of building the Ruth Royer Kulp Memorial Hospital. In March 1929 the Gibbels moved to the Lassa station and were busy with the medical program there until they left Africa in November of that year. At present he is practicing medicine at Hollansburg, Ohio.

CHARLES C. GIBSON was born to Cullen C. and Nancy Jane Daugherty Gibson, in Morgan County, Illinois, July 3, 1850. He became a member of the Church of the Brethren early in life. On December 22, 1870 he married Susan Neher, who was born in Clark County, Ohio; ten children—seven sons and three daughters—were born to them. He taught school in the vicinity of Girard for many years, and also farmed. He was elected to the ministry in the West Otter Creek church in 1892, and was later ordained to the eldership. His ministerial service was in the West Otter Creek and Pleasant Hill churches, but he also served at many mission points in the district. He assisted in several Bible schools and institutes. On November 12, 1913, he died in Macoupin County, Illinois.

CULLEN C. GIBSON was born to James and Hannah Meredith Gibson in Rutherford County, Tennessee, February 1, 1823. In 1852 he united with the Church of the Brethren. On September 10, 1843, he married Nancy Jane Daugherty of Morgan County, Illinois; they became the parents of seven sons and seven daughters. Most of his learning came through observation and studying his Bible while he worked. He moved to Macoupin County, Illinois, in 1864 and settled on a farm near Girard. In 1859 he was elected to the ministry in the Sugar Creek church. His free ministerial service was given largely to the Macoupin and Sangamon

County churches. He had advanced views, and was looked upon as a leader of liberal thought ahead of his time. A man of strong convictions and good judgment, he took an active part in community interests and was considered a good counselor in business affairs and in spiritual leadership. He died at his home in Macoupin County on October 8, 1920.

DANIEL B. GIBSON, son of Isham and Elizabeth Gates Gibson, was born in Wilson County, Tennessee, April 24, 1836. On December 12, 1858, he was married to Anna Sturgis, daughter of Elder D. B. Sturgis; three sons and three daughters were born to them. He taught in the public schools, and studied medicine with Dr. D. B. Sturgis but never practiced medicine. He was the author of the books: *The Lord's Supper*, *The Horseback Preacher*, and *Our Faith and Practice*. He united with the Church of the Brethren on March 13, 1859, was elected deacon in September 1862, was called to be a minister on September 1, 1869, and was ordained an elder in August 1877. For forty-five years he was active in evangelistic and pastoral work, preaching in eleven states and in one third of the one hundred two counties in Illinois, and doing ministerial work in St. Louis, Kansas City, St. Joseph and Plattsburg, Missouri, at Carlton, Kansas, and at many other places. In 1877 he held his first series of meetings at what was later Mount Morris College. He baptized over one thousand persons. His ministerial services in the district centered in the Milmine, Pleasant Hill, and Macoupin Creek congregations. Twice he served on Standing Committee. He died at Girard on August 16, 1921.

FRANK W. GIBSON, the son of Charles C. and Susan Neher Gibson, was born near Girard, Illinois, April 18, 1881. He united with the Church of the Brethren in 1894. In 1900 he moved with his parents to Auburn, Illinois. For four

years he taught in the public schools of that community. He married Leona Ellen Filbrun on June 20, 1906; four daughters were born to them. Elected to the ministry in the Sugar Creek church near Auburn in 1907, he was ordained to the eldership at Miami, New Mexico, where he had located in 1909. There he spent the remaining thirty-five years of his life in faithful service. During his later years, with health failing, he gave a portion of his time to teaching carpentry to boys in the New Mexico Industrial School at Springer. He died on March 28, 1945.

GEORGE W. GIBSON was born in Morgan County, Illinois, March 24, 1858. His parents were Cullen C. and Nancy Jane Daugherty Gibson. He united with the Church of the Brethren in June 1877. On July 13, 1879, he and Rebecca Harshbarger of Girard, Illinois, were married; to them were born four sons and four daughters, one of whom, Lucile Heckman, is a missionary in Nigeria. His second marriage was to Mary Gay, also of Girard, on December 28, 1904. He was an efficient teacher for many years. His election to the ministry occurred in the Macoupin Creek church, near Girard, in February of 1883. Here he served in the free ministry, and also in the West Otter Creek church, eight miles west of Girard. For a short time he was pastor of the Indian Creek church near Maxwell, Iowa, later returning to Girard. He did much preaching, including some successful evangelistic work, in different communities. Later he changed his membership to the Baptist Church and served in it as an elder to the end of his life. He died at Girard in March 1942.

IRVIN J. GIBSON, son of Charles C. and Susan Neher Gibson, was born in Macoupin County, Illinois, March 22, 1890. He was baptized by his father in 1903. He married Ethel, daughter of Cornelius Mummert, of Astoria, Illinois,

on December 24, 1919; to them were born one son and one daughter. He spent four years at Mount Morris College, attended Western Illinois State Teachers' College, and has a B.D. degree from Bethany Biblical Seminary. He taught in Hebron Seminary, Nokesville, Virginia, 1920-1921, and fourteen years in the high schools of Illinois. He was elected to the ministry in 1912 and ordained to the eldership in 1918. His record of ministerial service is: pastor, Liberty, Illinois, June to December 1918; assistant pastor, Douglas Park, Chicago, 1919-1920; pastor, Canton, Ohio, 1923-1924; pastor, Fostoria, Ohio, 1924-1926; pastor, Woodland church, Illinois, 1926-1927; pastor, Astoria, 1934-1937; elder at Canton, Illinois, 1935-1947; evangelist in Pennsylvania, Virginia, Iowa, Missouri, and Ohio.

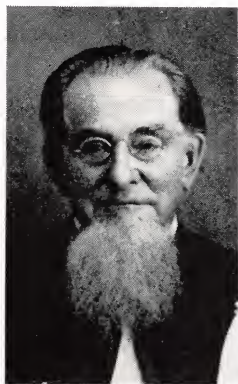


I. J. GIBSON

ISHAM GIBSON was born in Wilson County, Tennessee, June 15, 1803. His parents were members of the Primitive Baptist Church, with hopes that their son would become a Baptist preacher. On one occasion Isham, his father, and a neighbor rode fifteen miles to hear Elder Joseph Roland, who was a stranger to all of them, preach; a little later Isham rode forty miles to have Elder Roland baptize him. He had been teaching school at the age of eighteen. When he was twenty he was elected to the ministry and was ordained an elder three years later, on May 26, 1826. He studied the doctrines of the Brethren with intensity and became one of the best informed Brethren in the West; he was a typical pioneer preacher. In 1829 he moved to Morgan County, Illinois, and on March 20, 1830, was married

to Elizabeth Gates. In Illinois he again met Elder Joseph Roland and they, with John Dick, organized the Sugar Creek church, June 20, 1830, the second congregation of the Church of the Brethren to be established in Illinois. He presided over this church for thirty-eight years. His straightforward preaching led to challenges for debates. The Hostetler-Gibson debate in 1833 was held in the old two-story log courthouse in Decatur where Lincoln later held court; after the debate he baptized eight. In 1840 he debated with Mr. Morgan, an infidel, with the result that Mr. Morgan became a Christian. Elder Gibson and George Wolfe traveled and worked much together for over thirty years. Three of his sons were ordained elders and all through life were active in the Church of the Brethren. At the age of sixty-nine he moved to Bates County, Missouri, where he died on December 6, 1875.

JAVAN GIBSON, son of Isham and Elizabeth Gates Gibson, was born near Franklin, Illinois, March 5, 1835. He married Mary Cummings of Virden, Illinois, on March 13, 1856; three sons and six daughters were born to them. His wife died in April 1889. He was married to Elizabeth Studebaker Lear of Farmersville, Illinois, on December 1, 1889. Being a good reader and thinker he acquired a liberal education in his adult years. His parents moved to Macoupin County about 1844, settling nine miles west of Virden. Here he drove an ox team while breaking up the virgin prairie soil. He united with the Church of the Brethren in July 1857, was elected a deacon in 1859, was called to the ministry in 1875 and



JAVAN GIBSON

ordained to the eldership in 1883. He helped to organize churches and build nine church houses, and was elder-in-charge of a number of congregations. His death occurred on January 16, 1919.

JAMES RUFUS GISH was born in Roanoke County, Virginia, June 4, 1826. His parents were devout members of the Church of the Brethren. In 1848 he married Barbara Kindig. The same year they emigrated with others to Woodford County, Illinois, traveling for six weeks in a covered wagon. They settled on Grand Prairie, where Roanoke now stands. On June 27, 1852, they united with the Church of the Brethren. Six others were baptized at the same time, and this small group was the nucleus of the church in Woodford County. The same year, on October 23, Brother Gish was elected to the ministry, and soon became a speaker of marked ability.



JAMES R. GISH
AND WIFE

In 1863 he was ordained to the eldership. He held many successful evangelistic meetings. Being a good financier, he invested his money carefully and became a man of considerable wealth. At his death, he left all of his property to his wife without any instructions; she in turn gave a gift then estimated at nearly fifty thousand dollars to the General Mission Board, establishing what is known as the Gish Fund. He passed away at his home at Stuttgart, Arkansas, April 30, 1896.

JAMES W. GISH, son of William A. and Sarah E. Statler Gish, both of Roanoke County, Virginia, was born in Woodford County, Illinois, July 2, 1860. He married Mary L. Reiff of Roanoke, Illinois, on September 11, 1884. He was baptized by Rufus R. Gish in October 1878. Two years were spent in Mount Morris College. He was elected a minister in the Panther Creek church in 1880 and ordained an elder in the South Beatrice church, Nebraska, in 1897. There he served as elder for thirty years and in the pastoral ministry from 1884 to 1924, preaching also at the Falls City and Auburn churches for several years. In May 1936 he moved to Shelby County, Missouri, where he served as pastor and elder. He died March 24, 1949.

NOAH GREENAWALT lived the larger part of his life in the Cerro Gordo congregation, of which he was a member. He was born in 1828. Twice married, he was the father



NOAH GREENAWALT
AND WIFE

of four sons and three daughters, all of whom died in infancy or early childhood. Brother Greenawalt was successful in accumulating valuable property and, being loyal to the church, he made the Southern District of Illinois the beneficiary of a very good eighth-

ty-acre farm which is designated as God's Acres. There was also village property included in his gift. He died in 1889.

C. A. GRUBER was born in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, October 1, 1865, the son of Joseph and Susan Aldinger Gruber. On November 15, 1888, he married Lizzie B. Hollinger of Astoria, Illinois; to them were born five daughters. He was baptized by Elder John Harshbarger, Sr., in 1896. A farmer by vocation, he is also a churchman: elected to the office of deacon in 1897; elected to the ministry in 1901; ordained to the eldership in 1913. His work has been in the local churches in which he has resided—Martins Creek and Astoria. He died October 18, 1948.

HIRAM H. GRUBER was born in Dauphin County, Pennsylvania, December 12, 1871, the son of Jacob and Fannie B. Hollinger Gruber. On August 12, 1894, he married Annie M. Miller of Auburn, Illinois. Five daughters were born to them. Most of his active years were spent in farming. He was baptized by John C. Demy on August 10, 1894. He was called to the office of deacon on April 26, 1895, in the Astoria church, which has been his continuous home. For fourteen years he served on the district mission board.



HIRAM H. GRUBER
AND WIFE

M. L. HAHN was born at Gettysburg, Ohio. His father was Jonathan Hahn and his stepmother was Sarah Everts Hahn. He married Mary Crowel on November 4, 1869; they

had one son and five daughters. On May 2, 1896, he married Sarah Haskins; to them was born one son. His trade was that of carpenter. He united with the Church of the Brethren on September 15, 1875; was elected a deacon, November 20, 1882; was called to the ministry, November 8, 1883; was ordained to the eldership in November 1903. He moved from Jay County, Indiana, to Bond County, Illinois, in January 1901. For a number of years he was pastor in various churches and missions in Southern Illinois, among them Hurricane Creek, Canton and Camp Creek. He held a number of evangelistic meetings. Later he moved to Minnesota, where he died on March 6, 1923.

O. P. HAINES, the second son of Joseph and Mary Pfeifer Haines, was born near Dayton, Ohio, April 27, 1878. He was baptized in 1904. On February 25, 1905, he married Bertha E. Minnich; two children were born to them. He spent some time at Ohio Northern and Miami universities. For ten years he taught school. The West Dayton church, Ohio, elected him to the ministry on March 10, 1910; he was ordained at Rockford, Illinois, on September 11, 1913, and for two years was pastor there. After two years in Bethany Biblical Seminary he was pastor at Cerro Gordo, Illinois, for two years, and later at Kent, Ohio. As a successful evangelist he preached over twenty-five hundred sermons and received nearly one thousand into the membership of the church by baptism. He died at Lima, Ohio, July 5, 1925.

EVA ETHYL HAMERSON, daughter of William and Clarinda J. Southard Butterfield, was born in Cowley County, Kansas, January 16, 1884. She married John Hamerson on November 3, 1909; to them were born one son and one daughter. She was baptized by Mr. Hamerson, a Presbyterian minister, in 1909, and later, in 1949, by Joseph E.

Campbell, a minister of the Church of the Brethren. Trained as a graduate nurse she later taught in Oklahoma, nursed for nine years, and was a pastor's wife from 1909 to 1938. On March 3, 1944, she was licensed to the ministry by the Church of the Brethren, and for a short time served in the Martins Creek church in a ministerial capacity.

JOSEPH J. HAMM was born in Gage County, Nebraska, January 18, 1886, the son of Jacob and Catharine Troxel Hamm. He united with the church at Oakley, Illinois, on August 27, 1903. Mabel Frantz and he were married on July 14, 1914; they have three sons and two daughters. Two years were spent at Bridgewater College. He has farmed and done carpenter work in Illinois and Michigan. On July 1, 1913, he was elected to the ministry in the Oakley church. In 1914 he moved to Michigan; there he was ordained to the eldership and served the following churches: Sugar Ridge, at Custer, as minister and later as elder; Hart, as elder and minister; Long Lake, near Manistee, as elder and minister. He was a member of the district mission board. His present location is Centerville, Michigan.



I. J. HARSHBARGER
AND WIFE

ISAAC J. HARSHBARGER, son of Joseph W. and Catherine Flory Harshbarger, was born July 8, 1864. He was baptized by Elder J. H. Brubaker, October 31, 1889. Martha R. Brubaker became his wife on February 14, 1889. One son and three daughters were born to them. He was a farmer from

1885 to 1925. Elected to the ministry in 1893, he was ordained as an elder in 1902. His ministerial service is thus summarized: elder, West Otter Creek, 1904-1907; elder and pastor, Macoupin Creek, 1907-1911; elder, Macoupin Creek from 1913 until its disorganization; elder, Girard, 1913-1915 and 1933-1940. On December 13, 1939, the following resolution was passed by the Girard church: "In appreciation of the work of Elder I. J. Harshbarger, we bestow upon him the honor of Elder Emeritus, during his stay in the Girard Church." He died at the Home at Girard on December 8, 1949.

JOHN H. HARSHBARGER was born at Westphalia, Kansas, on August 27, 1890, the son of John William and Hester A. Nance Harshbarger. He was married to Lillian E. Walker of Liberty, Illinois, December 20, 1911. Two sons and two daughters were born to them. He has devoted many years to farming at Liberty and Virden, Illinois. He was baptized by J. W. Harshbarger in September 1911 and was chosen deacon at Liberty in 1911. From 1942 to 1945 he was the superintendent of the Home at Girard; he lives at Virden, Illinois.

JOHN HARSHBARGER, SR., the son of John J. and Margaret Early Harshbarger, was born in Rockingham County, Virginia, on June 26, 1839. On September 26, 1860, he married Margaret Ann Long; five sons and three daughters came into their home. They moved to Macoupin County, Illinois, in 1880; to Butler County, Kansas, in 1885; and then to Wayne County, Illinois, in 1888. He is listed as a minister of the Martins Creek church in Wayne County, Illinois, at the time of its organization in 1888. There he served in the free ministry until the end of his life. He was the elder of a number of congregations in the district, did much committee work, held many successful evangelistic meetings,

and served on Standing Committee. He died in Wayne County on August 28, 1898.

JOHN WILLIAM HARSHBARGER, son of John and Margaret Long Harshbarger, was born in Rockingham County, Virginia, August 15, 1863. He and Hester Nance of Spencer-ville, Ohio, were married on December 24, 1882. To them were born three sons and three daughters. Uniting with the Church of the Brethren in the Martins Creek church, Illinois, he was elected to the deaconship in 1894, was called to the ministry in 1889, and was ordained to the eldership in 1902. His ministerial work was divided as follows: minister and elder, Martins Creek, Illinois, 1899-1909; pastor and elder, Liberty, Illinois, 1909-1913; pastor, Homestead, Michigan, 1913-1915; pastor and elder, Scottville, Michigan, 1915-1917; Martins Creek, Illinois, 1917-1927; elder-in-charge of a number of different congregations; Standing Committeeman; evangelist in various churches. He died on November 30, 1931.

JOSEPH W. HARSHBARGER was the son of John and Catharine Flory Harshbarger; he was born in Rockingham County, Virginia, June 4, 1827. His marriage to Catharine Flory took place on January 25, 1849. They were the parents of ten children. He came to Macoupin County, Illinois, in 1870. A farmer in Virginia, he continued as one in Illinois. He was elected a deacon in Virginia in 1863, a minister in Illinois in 1871, and an ordained elder in the Pleasant Hill church in 1877. As an elder he served the West Otter Creek church, 1882-1883, and the Pleasant Hill church, 1882-1895. His death occurred at Girard on June 4, 1913.

DANIEL MAX HARTSOUGH, the son of George and Amelia Ikehorn Hartsough, was born in Muskingum County, Ohio, March 9, 1877. His first marriage was to Elizabeth Starkey

of Glenford, Ohio, on February 10, 1901; his second to Mrs. Evaline M. Farebes of Thomasville, Ohio, on July 10, 1912; his third, to Mrs. Viola M. Myers of Cygnet, Ohio, on August 11, 1931. He is the father of one son and two daughters. He took a home study course from Bethany Biblical Seminary. He engaged in farming in Ohio, and was a blacksmith in Wayne County, Ohio, from 1912-1923. Baptized by Landon West on November 20, 1886, he was elected deacon in April 1906, called to the ministry in May 1923, and ordained to the eldership in May 1941. His pastoral services have been given at Woodland, Illinois, 1933-1935; Walnut Grove, Illinois, 1935-1937; Brethren, Michigan, 1937-1939; Paint Creek and Belleville, Kansas, 1939-1942; Root River, Minnesota, 1942-1943; Garber, Iowa, 1943-1945.



DURWARD
HAYS

DURWARD HAYS was born in Lawrence County, Illinois, September 20, 1920; his parents were Martin and Ethel Whitson Hays. On July 28, 1941, he united with the Church of the Brethren, was baptized by Elder Dolar Ritchey. He is a farmer. Licensed to the ministry on April 3, 1946, he was installed on May 10, 1947. Since 1946 he has been pastor of the La Motte Prairie church, and of the Romine church since 1947.

WILLIAM F. HAYNES was born near La Place, Illinois, June 28, 1880, the son of Henry Clay and Sarah Ann Binns Haynes, both of Pickaway County, Ohio. He was baptized at La Place in 1904. On December 24, 1905, he married Etta Wheeler of Cerro Gordo, Illinois. One winter was spent at Bethany Biblical Seminary. When called to the ministry in 1906 he was working in a store and post office at La Place.

In 1907 he moved to MacDoel, California, and preached at various places. In 1909 he moved to Patterson, California, and helped open the work and organize the church. It was there that he was ordained to the eldership. In February 1917 he came to the Virden church as pastor and served there until his death on June 2, 1920.

B. FRANKLIN HECKMAN was born near Hammond, Illinois, September 22, 1882. He was the son of David and Elizabeth Miller Heckman, who with their family moved into the Oakley congregation in 1891. He became a member of this congregation in October 1898. He attended Mount Morris College from 1901 to 1905, and in June 1905 was married to Minna Mote of Union City, Ohio. The two following years he was principal of the Cerro Gordo high school. The Cerro Gordo church called him to the ministry on December 31, 1905. In 1907 he entered Bethany Biblical Seminary; finished the four-year course; taught Hebrew and Old Testament exegesis for one year, and also did some graduate work at the University of Chicago. He had charge of rescue mission work in Chicago, and conducted a number of Bible institutes in different states. In 1910 he was pastor and evangelist at the mission in Springfield, Illinois. In 1911 he, with his wife and two daughters, went to the China mission field and was stationed at Ping Ting Chou. After fifteen months he contracted smallpox and died on January 14, 1913, the first Brethren missionary to give up his life while in service on the China field.



B. F. HECKMAN

DAVID LEWIS HECKMAN was born in Kosciusko County, Indiana, on December 27, 1853; his parents were Aaron and

Anna Miller Heckman. He married Mary J. Brubaker on March 11, 1875. To them were born four daughters. He united with the Church of the Brethren about the time of his marriage and was elected to the office of deacon in the Macoupin Creek church, November 9, 1897. His vocation was farming in the vicinity of Virden and Girard. He served in the Macoupin Creek church in various activities and also in district work, being for a time a member of the board of trustees of the Home, to which he left a valuable gift. He died in Macoupin County, Illinois, February 28, 1931.

IRWIN DANIEL HECKMAN, son of David and Elizabeth Miller Heckman, was born near Cerro Gordo, Illinois, May 8, 1876. On August 23, 1899, he was married to Lydia Sen-

senbaugh of Oakley, Illinois. To this union were born four daughters. He united with the Church of the Brethren at Oakley on September 20, 1900. After attending college at Marion, Indiana, in 1898, for a number of years he taught in the schools of Macon County. He also took courses in agriculture at the University of Illinois, qualifying as a corn judge. For several years he gave lectures on seeds and soils in many counties of Illinois and served as a judge of agricultural exhibits under a license from the state university. He was elected to the



IRWIN D. HECKMAN
AND WIFE

ministry in the Oakley church on November 30, 1906, and on November 10, 1916, was ordained to the eldership. He at-

tended Bethany Biblical Seminary two years. Evangelistic services were conducted by him in many churches in Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, Missouri, Colorado, and Kansas; his converts were numbered by the hundreds. He served on the Standing Committee a number of times, officiated as moderator of district meeting, was an efficient secretary of the board of administration for nine years, represented the district as a member of the trustee board of Manchester College, was elder of a number of the churches of the district, was a member of the district historical committee, and served the district in other capacities. He died on December 28, 1943.

J. HUGH HECKMAN was born to David and Elizabeth Miller Heckman on July 17, 1887, near Hammond, Illinois. At the age of fifteen he was baptized. On August 19, 1911, he married Jennie A. Sellers of Fostoria, Ohio; one son and two daughters were born to them. He attended Colorado College, received an A.B. degree from Mount Morris College, a B.D. and a Th.M. from Bethany Biblical Seminary, and an A.M. from the University of Chicago. He was elected to the ministry in the Cerro Gordo, Illinois, church on October 7, 1905, and was ordained to the eldership in 1916. From 1915 to 1925 he taught in Bethany Biblical Seminary, and during the latter years of his life was professor of Bible and philosophy in McPherson College. His varied activities included some work as pastor: Rocky Ford, Colorado, summer of 1907; Fruita, Colorado, 1928-1933. He not only possessed analytical and oratorical gifts in pulpit work but was a writer of marked ability. Among his books are *The Teacher's Appreciation of the Old Testament*; *Second Year Teacher Training Book* (co-author). He was the writer of "Lessons in Everyday Life" in the *Brethren Teachers' Monthly* for thirteen years. Although he suffered much physically, he rendered sacrificial service with poise and

judgment. He died at McPherson, Kansas, on April 23, 1933.

JOHN HECKMAN, SR., was born in Franklin County, Virginia, June 28, 1810. In April of the next year the father, David Heckman, and three of his married sisters (the three married three Kinsey brothers) went by wagon to Wheeling, Virginia. Here they built a raft of logs and floated their belongings down the Ohio River to Cincinnati; there they landed and traveled north to near New Carlisle, where they established homes in the heavily wooded new country. They lived in the vicinity of the Donnels Creek church and were among its early members. He married Louiseana Keplinger; to them was born one daughter. After his wife's early death he married Elizabeth Beanblossom Wones, a widow with three sons. One daughter and two sons were born to this union. A few months after he moved to Bond County, Illinois, his wife died, on February 3, 1860. On May 15 following, he married Lavina Moyer Goshorn, formerly of Wayne County, Ohio, a widow with one daughter; she became the mother of Elder John Heckman of Polo, Illinois, the only child of this union. She died May 14, 1865. Again he married, this time Mrs. Cassandra Powers of Ohio, a widow with one daughter. He moved to Bond County, Illinois, in the fall of 1859. The old Hurricane Creek church stood on the corner of his farm. There he lived for six years, then immediately following the death of his wife in 1865 he moved near Girard, Illinois, and lived on a farm. He read much, as was indicated by the number and character of the books in his library. His death occurred on March 28, 1867. His funeral was held in the Pleasant Hill school-house as the church under construction was not yet completed.

LUCILE GIBSON HECKMAN, the daughter of George W. and Rebecca Harshbarger Gibson, was born at Girard, Illi-

nois, on August 10, 1902. Mrs. Gibson died at Lucile's birth and Lucile was taken into the home of her aunt, where she lived for twelve years, until her aunt's death. Then she made her home with her father and her step-mother. She became a member of the Church of the Brethren at Girard at the age of ten years. Mount Morris College granted her A.B. degree in 1924. She was married to Clarence Heckman on June 3, 1924. They had hoped to go to India, but when the General Mission Board asked them to go to Nigeria they were willing to go there. Her work in Nigeria included serving as housemother at the Hillcrest School, 1942-1946, and as field treasurer of the Africa mission since 1937.



LUCILE GIBSON
HECKMAN

WILLIAM T. HECKMAN, the son of David and Elizabeth V. Miller Heckman, was born near Oakley, Illinois, January 26, 1875. On November 3, 1895, he was baptized by Elder Granville Nevinger. He married Hannah Blickenstaff of Oakley on September 5, 1900; three sons and two daughters were born to them. He attended Mount Morris College three years and taught school in Macon County. From 1899 to 1946 he engaged in farming on the Heckman homestead in the Oakley (Brick) church



WILLIAM T. HECKMAN
AND WIFE

community. Elected to the ministry in the Oakley church January 10, 1901, he was ordained an elder on November 19, 1911, in the same church. From 1901 to 1949 he was minister and pastor of the Oakley church. He has held a number of evangelistic meetings in different states. Other capacities in which he served the church in this district are: elder, Champaign, 1920-1946; elder, Springfield, 1923-1934; elder, Hudson, Blue Ridge, La Motte Prairie and Oakley, and at Cerro Gordo six years; elder, Decatur, 1935-1945; elder, La Place, 1945-1948; Standing Committeeman six times; member district mission board (later the board of administration) thirty-one consecutive years; moderator of district conference eight times; reader four times; committee of arrangements for the Annual Conference of 1906; trustee of Mount Morris College. Twice he served on Annual Conference committees to churches in other districts. For six years he was president of the board of education of the Cerro Gordo Township high school. He has preached about three hundred funerals and is a prominent leader in the home community, church and district.

SOPHIA HEITZ was born in Baden, Germany, on September 23, 1855. When he was twelve years old he came to America. His wife was Amanda Ellen Bowyer; two sons were born to them. She died in 1922. He was baptized in the Milmine church on September 2, 1883, by M. J. McClure. This church elected him to the ministry in 1891 and ordained him as an elder in 1898. His active ministry was largely in this congregation. He died in 1929.

JOSEPH HENDRICKS was born near Bremen, Ohio, September 14, 1818. His first wife was Elizabeth Seitz; to them were born nine children. The mother died in 1864. He came to Cerro Gordo, Illinois, in 1867. His second marriage was to Mary Metzger Heckman, a daughter of Elder

John Metzger. He united with the Church of the Brethren in Ohio at the age of twenty years, was elected to the ministry at Bremen in 1857 and ordained in the same year. After coming to Cerro Gordo he became an associate in the ministry with Elder John Metzger, and was a great leader in the early mission work of the district. He was very strong in the pulpit and was successful in evangelistic work. He did much organizational work and represented the district on Standing Committee a number of times. On January 5, 1881, he died at Cerro Gordo.

ELDO R. HENRICKS, son of Elisha and Hattie P. Scott Henricks, was born near La Place, Illinois, October 25, 1893. Lela M. Shively of La Place and he were married on August 8, 1915; two sons were born to them. He was baptized by Isaac Frantz in October 1905. He received an A.B. degree from Mount Morris College in 1927, and an A.M. from the University of Illinois in 1938. From 1912 to 1915 and again from 1919 to 1924 he taught in the public schools of Piatt County, Illinois. From 1924 to 1932 he was the business manager, treasurer and assistant professor of education at Mount Morris College. From 1935 to 1947 he was the assistant principal and teacher of mathematics in the high school at Mount Morris. He was elected a minister at La Place in December 1919 and ordained an elder in December 1927. His record of ministerial work is: elder, Mount Morris, 1937-1947; elder, West Branch, Illinois, 1945-1947; elder, Cerro Gordo, since 1948; pastor, La Place, since 1947.



ELDO R.
HENRICKS

IRA T. HIATT was born in Madison County, Indiana, March 18, 1895, the son of Cylvetus A. and Flora May Lamb Hiatt. He was baptized by J. R. Wellington on May 18,



IRA T. HIATT
AND WIFE

1905. Lula May Ritchie of Muncie, Indiana, became his wife on December 23, 1914; they have three sons. After graduating from the Bible course at Manchester College in 1914 he attended Muncie Normal Institute, 1914-1915. In October 1914 he was elected deacon; in January 1915, a minister; about 1918, ordained an elder. For a number of years he served on the district mission board of Southern Indiana. He was a farmer-minister near Muncie, Indiana, from 1915 to 1927;

pastor near Clay City, Indiana, 1927-1935; farmer near Jacksonville, Indiana, 1935-1939; in business at Fortville and Anderson, Indiana from 1939 to 1945; pastor at La Place, Illinois, 1945-1947. Since 1947 he has been the pastor of the Panther Creek church.

LEMUEL HILLERY was born in Frederick County, Maryland, May 14, 1843. He married Mary Nicholson of Marshalltown, Iowa, on November 13, 1866; they had four daughters and one son. On April 15, 1890, he married Aloretta Nihart, of Middlebury, Indiana; one daughter came into their home. He married Mina Cripe of Goshen, Indiana, on September 21, 1895. He united with the Church of the Brethren in April 1865, was called to the ministry at Marshalltown, Iowa, and was ordained to the eldership in 1881. Brother Hillery was

an ardent reader with an excellent memory. He preached much in Iowa, Illinois, Kansas, Missouri, and Indiana. One year, 1877, was spent as pastor of the Oak Grove (then Pigeon Creek) church. The following incident, quoted from *Brethren in Northern Illinois and Wisconsin*, by Heckman and Miller, illustrates well his Christian influence: "He was a natural orator, with commanding personality, and ready wit. He understood the Brethren doctrine, and defended it fearlessly. He was once called to preach in a 'wild and woolly' place, where ruffians had driven out the preacher. He had not gone far in his sermon when a half dozen heads were huddled in conversation. Lemuel paused, shot his eyes through those men, shook his shaggy head and said: 'For God's sake, men, take your seats. This is my time. When I am through it will be your time.' Stunned, they took their seats. A few months later the gang was baptized." He died at Goshen, Indiana, on August 31, 1912.

DANIEL HOLLINGER, son of Jacob and Catharine Shumaker Hollinger, was born in Dauphin County, Pennsylvania, July 8, 1831. He married Leah Balsbaugh in 1902; two sons and one daughter were born to them. He was an elder when he located in Fulton County, Illinois, in 1880. A farmer preacher, he was for a short time elder-in-charge of the Astoria church.

JOSEPH HOLLINGER was born in Dauphin County, Pennsylvania, in 1820, the son of Jacob and Catharine Hollinger. He married Lizzie Balsbaugh; to them were born four sons and two daughters. In 1880 he moved to Astoria, Illinois. A farmer minister and an ordained elder, he had charge of the Astoria church for a time.

SAMUEL A. HONBERGER, son of Charles and Catharine Honberger, was born near Lititz, Pennsylvania, on November 10, 1842. The father was a member of the Reformed

Church and the mother was a Lutheran. In his early life the family moved to Reading, Pennsylvania, and in the fall of 1860 to Ashland County, Ohio. Arriving here, Samuel worked as a farm hand for Daniel Artz, a member of the Church of the Brethren. He attended church services regularly, and on December 20, 1860, he was baptized by Isaac Schmucker. On June 4, 1864, he married Sarah Clauser; they had seven sons and three daughters. In 1867 they moved to Nebraska, locating on a homestead. The first church in Nebraska was organized in the Honberger home by Elder John Murry of Marshalltown, Iowa. In 1872 the Honbergers moved to the Kidder congregation, Missouri. On September 20, 1874, he was elected to the ministry; his ordination took place in 1878. The family moved to Roanoke, Louisiana, in 1891. Brother Honberger was pastor of the Panther Creek church, Southern Illinois, in the early 1900's, then moved to San Diego, California, in 1910. He preached in twenty-three states and in Canada.

JAMES HALE JELLISON was born in Randolph County, Indiana, January 29, 1849, the son of R. A. and Philena Hale Jellison. He married Esther Gerhart of Lawrence County, Illinois, on April 20, 1873. Two sons and two daughters were born to them. After farming and teaching in Whitley County, Indiana, he farmed in Lawrence County, Illinois, from 1873 to 1932. He was elected to the ministry September 25, 1875, and ordained to the eldership September 9, 1883. From 1875 to 1932 he was minister and associate elder of the Allison Prairie church. He died in Lawrence County, Illinois, September 18, 1932.

J. J. JOHNSON was born at Uniontown, Pennsylvania, February 22, 1882. His parents were John F. and Margaret Cover Johnson. He was baptized in the Woodland church near Astoria, Illinois, by F. E. Eckerle in September 1906.

Ella M. Gruber of Astoria became his wife on October 29, 1905; one son was born to them. After farming for a while he attended Bethany Biblical Seminary, 1911-1915. His talents in carpentry, mechanics and several related crafts benefited his churches as he made many improvements in their buildings. He planned and supervised the building of new parsonages at Dixon, Illinois, and Springfield, Ohio. The following summary indicates his ministerial service: pastor, Dixon, Illinois, 1916-1922; pastor, Omaha, Nebraska, 1922-1926; pastor, Springfield, Ohio, 1926-1931; pastor, Canton, Illinois, 1931-1934; pastor, Logansport, Indiana, 1934-1939; elder, Woodland, Illinois, 1931-1934; elder, Astoria, Illinois, 1931-1934; elder, Octavia, Nebraska, 1924-1926; member and officer, Nebraska mission board, 1922-1926; Standing Committee delegate. He died at Logansport, Indiana, July 7, 1939.



J. J.
JOHNSON

CLEVELAND KAISER, a native of Iowa, was born on January 12, 1889, son of Franklin and Catherine Tabor Kaiser. He married Rosa M. Harshbarger of Jeffersonville, Illinois, February 23, 1908; two sons and one daughter came into their home. One year was spent at Bethany Biblical Seminary. He was baptized by John W. Harshbarger, September 11, 1911. The Liberty church, Illinois, called him to the ministry on September 15, 1912. He farmed in Michigan and Illinois, helping with the ministerial responsibilities at Liberty, Illinois, 1911-1913, Homestead, Michigan, 1913-1915, and Scottville, Michigan, 1915-1917. From 1918 to 1921 he was pastor at Batavia, Illinois. From 1921 to 1930 he shared in the work of the ministry at Hart, Michigan. He died at Flat Rock, Illinois, December 17, 1942.

WILLIAM THOMAS KEISER was born in Augusta County, Virginia, September 5, 1845. He married Elizabeth Stoner; they had four sons. In an early day he came to Woodford County, Illinois, and settled near Roanoke, where he farmed. He served in the eldership for a number of years, and while in Southern Illinois he served the district as district officer and on committee work. In 1898 he moved to Los Angeles, California, where he engaged in the feed and fuel business and farmed. He died at Pomona, California, July 22, 1927.

CLINTON EARL KESSLER was born in Fulton County, Illinois, November 18, 1912, to Samuel and Minnie Etter Kessler. He married Fern Evelyn McMullin of Ipava, Illinois, on February 18, 1940; one son and one daughter were born to them. He was baptized by Elder S. G. Bucher, November 30, 1925. In 1936 he attended Western Illinois State Teachers' College; then he was interested in farming from 1938 to 1947. Licensed to the ministry in the Woodland church on January 26, 1947, he is now the pastor of the Camp Creek church, Colchester, Illinois.

B. E. KESSLER was born in Franklin County, Virginia, March 6, 1861. After taking courses in Halesford Classical and Mathematical School he taught thirty-four years in his home county. He united with the Church of the Brethren in his seventeenth year. In August 1884 he was elected to the ministry; in 1898 he became an elder. In December 1895 he came to Illinois, locating at Cornell. After four months here he was employed by the district mission board and the Macoupin Creek church as minister in the city of Litchfield, Illinois, for ten months. From there he was sent by the General Mission Board to the Arkansas mission field, where he labored for nine years. Three congregations were organized in that field. There he received his first challenge to a debate. Following two and a half years at Norton, Kansas,

he was called to southeastern Missouri to hold a public debate. He held such debates at Wanda, Nebraska, Akron, Indiana, and Miami, Texas. About 1913 he was located at Plattsburg, Missouri, by the General Mission Board. Later he became the leader of the Dunkard Brethren movement and had a part in publishing *The Monitor*.

HOMER NEWTON KIRACOFÉ began his pastoral work in the Astoria church in Southern Illinois on September 1, 1949. He came to this district from the Sugar Ridge church, Custer, Michigan, where he had served as pastor from 1941 to 1949. His parents were Minor Newton and Gertie Eavers Kiracofé. He was born July 23, 1916, in Rockingham County, Virginia. His marriage to Rachel Miller of Scottville, Michigan, took place on June 5, 1940; to them were



HOMER N. KIRACOFÉ
AND WIFE

born three sons. His education consisted of earning an A.B. at Manchester College and a B.D. at Bethany Biblical Seminary. He was baptized by Noah Cool in October 1927. Elected to the ministry on May 29, 1936, he was ordained to the eldership in October 1943. He served in a summer pastorate at Pampa, Texas, in 1939 and at Waka, Texas, in 1940. Twice he has been a member of Standing Committee.

HOWARD JOSEPH KREIDER was born in Whitley County, Indiana, April 17, 1900. His parents were Landa U. and Erma Blanch Snell Kreider. He was baptized at Omaja, Cuba, by Ira P. Eby on June 3, 1910. He married Irene Miller, daughter of Noah H. and Elva Miller of near Cerro Gordo, Illinois, on May 14, 1925; one son and two daughters were born to them. One year was spent at Manchester College. He was elected to the ministry at La Place, Illinois, in 1928 and ordained to the eldership at the same place in 1931. As a free minister he served the Okaw congregation (now La Place) from 1928 to 1934, and as elder and pastor served the New Salem congregation near Milford, Indiana, from 1934 to 1947. Twice he was a delegate to Standing Committee, was a member of the ministerial-mission board of Northern Indiana from 1940 to 1946. He is now the pastor of the Liberty Mills church in Indiana.

HIESTER LANDES, son of Samuel M. and Rebecca Lutz Landes, was born in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, August 7, 1865. He was baptized in the Oakley church, Illinois, by Elder John Metzger on May 24, 1880. He married Hannah J. Arnold of La Place, Illinois, February 7, 1889; four sons were born to them. The Milmine church elected him to the ministry in 1894; he was ordained to the eldership in the Okaw (now La Place) church. His contribution to the ministry has been that of a farmer-minister in the Milmine and La Place congregations.

ABRAHAM S. LEAR, son of Samuel and father of J. W., was born in Elkhart County, Indiana, May 6, 1842. In 1865 he was married to Elizabeth N. Studebaker of near Goshen, Indiana; two sons and two daughters were born to them. He was a carpenter and cabinet maker, 1865-1876, at Girard and Morrisonville, Illinois; a farmer, 1876-1882, near Morrisonville. Elected to the ministry in 1867, he was ordained

to the eldership in the Bear Creek church, Christian County, in 1876, and given charge of the church the same day; this responsibility he retained to the time of his death. His ministry was successful from the beginning. Possessing rare leadership and spirituality, he early developed marked evangelistic ability, and his services were sought by many congregations throughout the district. Much of his travel was on horseback. He attended many love feasts. His death occurred on January 6, 1883.

JOHN WALLACE LEAR, son of Abraham S. and Elizabeth Studebaker Lear, was born near Girard, Illinois, April 12, 1870. He was baptized by Elder Daniel Vaniman in 1885.



JOHN W. LEAR
AND WIFE

Martha E. Shull of Virden, Illinois, became his wife on August 16, 1891. He taught in the public schools from 1893 to 1900. His A.B. degree was granted by Mount Morris College, 1919; he attended Miliken University, and received a B.D. from Bethany Biblical Seminary, 1921; later a D.D. was conferred on him by Mount Morris College. Elected to the ministry in the Macoupin Creek church in 1899, he was ordained an elder in 1909. His first full-time pastorates were at Cerro Gordo, Illinois, 1902-1911, and at Decatur, Illinois, 1911-1918.

From 1923 to 1938 he taught at Bethany Biblical Seminary and served as the executive secretary for the Council of Promotion and the Council of Boards at Elgin,

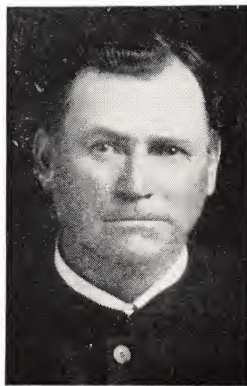
Illinois. He was dean of Bethany, 1931-1938, and served as acting president of the seminary one year. During the years 1938-1942 he was pastor at Glendora, California. From 1942 to 1948 he was the executive secretary for the Pacific Coast Region. He was the moderator of Annual Conference in 1926, served on Standing Committee seven times, and held more than seventy-five revival meetings in thirteen states.

MATTIE A. LEAR was born in Hunterdon County, New Jersey, August 17, 1838. She was left an orphan at fourteen. In December 1858 she married John Lear; one daughter was born to them. She was a member of the Methodist Church for several years, then united with the Church of the Brethren in 1862. The church at Hudson, Illinois, licensed her to preach about 1897, although she had preached for twenty years before that time. She was one of the early students at the teachers' college at Normal, Illinois. She wrote much for church papers, taught in Mount Morris College, 1879-1881, and led in organizing the first Brethren Sunday school in Mount Morris. On January 1, 1903, she died at her home in Hudson.

ROLLAND N. LEATHERMAN, son of John and Mary Dresher Leatherman, was born near Springfield, Ohio, January 29, 1888. He united with the church at the age of fifteen, was elected to the ministry at twenty-one, and was ordained to the eldership at twenty-nine. While in Chicago attending Bethany Biblical Seminary he married Pearl C. Shutt. The following pastorates have been his fields of work: Champaign, Illinois; Cincinnati, Ohio; West Alexandria, Ohio; Grand Junction, Colorado; Union City, Indiana. Through the one hundred evangelistic meetings which he held, almost four thousand were brought into the church. He died at Union City on February 4, 1936.

GALEN T. LEHMAN was born in Lee County, Illinois, May 20, 1897, the son of Ira and Mary Trostle Lehman. On June 6, 1922, he married June Puterbaugh of Lanark, Illinois; one son and one daughter were born to them. He was baptized by Elder Cyrus Suter on July 4, 1910. He holds an A.B. from Mount Morris College (1921) and a B.D. from Bethany Biblical Seminary (1926). He worked as fieldman for Mount Morris College in 1920 and from 1930 to 1932. These churches have had the benefit of his pastoral ministry: Batavia, Illinois, 1923-1926; Monitor church, near Conway, Kansas, 1926-1930; Cedar Rapids, Iowa, 1932-1937; Springfield, Illinois, 1937-1942; Huntington, Indiana, 1942-1949. At present he is the associate secretary of the Central Region. He has been active in other church interests, serving in many capacities: evangelist in numerous churches; Standing Committeeman three times; member of the district boards of Southwest Kansas, Middle Iowa, Southern Illinois, and Middle Indiana; director of young people's camps at Lewistown, Illinois, and Camp Mack, Indiana; chairman of the regional council of the Central Region; director of Annual Conference (1945); secretary of the Pastoral Association of our denomination; elder of five different churches; moderator of district conferences; trustee of McPherson College.

CHARLES ALBERT LEWIS was born at Lizton, Indiana, December 5, 1857, the son of Joseph and Nancy Lewis. He united with the Church of the Brethren in Nebraska about 1891. His marriage to Martha Frances Johnson of Indiana took place on June 1, 1880. Two sons and two daughters were



C. A. LEWIS

born to them. In Custer County, Nebraska, he lived on a farm which was obtained under the Homestead law. He moved to Farmer City, Illinois, and later to Champaign. Elected to the ministry in Nebraska, he was ordained to the eldership after coming to Champaign. He assisted in church work in York County, Nebraska, conducted revival meetings in various churches in Southern Illinois, and was instrumental in opening up mission work in Champaign and in organizing the church there, which he served as the first pastor. He died at Champaign on April 15, 1930.

NORA ARNOLD LICHTY, the daughter of John and Mary Hendricks Arnold, was born near La Place, Illinois, January 17, 1880. She was baptized by George Cripe in 1892. At-



NORA LICHTY

tending Manchester College, she worked on the Bible course which she later finished at Mount Morris College. While there she was a leader in the Missionary Reading Circle. In 1899 she received her first experience in actual mission work when she helped for a short time in the Chicago mission. In 1903 she went to the India mission field. On October 20, 1904, she was married to Daniel J. Lichty. They established the work at Umalla. In the sixteen years of her connection with the India mission work she

was most faithful to duty, remaining at her post even when it seemed that every health condition was against her. The Lichtys were at home on furlough attending Mount Morris College when she became ill with influenza and passed away on December 12, 1918.

WILLIAM R. LIERLY, a native of North Carolina, was born on August 16, 1818. With his parents he came to Union County, Illinois, in 1821. In 1830 he located in Adams County. On October 12, 1843, he married Penina Hendricks, who died February 20, 1895. Eleven children were born to them. He became a Christian early in life, and was a diligent Bible student. In 1850 he was called to the ministry. The family resided nearly five miles from the first church built in Adams County, and for twenty-five years he and his wife seldom missed a service. He officiated at three hundred marriages, preached over four hundred thirty funerals, and baptized nearly one hundred persons. On December 2, 1905, he died near Clayton, Illinois.

HENRY LILLIGH was born in Clarion County, Pennsylvania, May 1, 1849, the son of Jacob and Kathryn Mahle Lilligh. He married Harriet Morey of Mulberry Grove, Illinois, on March 17, 1872; three sons and three daughters were born to them. He was baptized by Elder John H. Goodman on May 6, 1877. The Mulberry Grove church called him to the ministry in 1877. He moved to Mulberry Grove in 1898 and to Decatur, Illinois, in 1920. In his early ministry in the district he served as elder-in-charge of a number of congregations. Later he identified himself with the Dunkard Brethren. He died at Fort Wayne, Indiana, January 7, 1940.

MATHIAS LINGENFELTER was born to Jacob and Sarah Claar Lingenfelter in Bedford County, Pennsylvania, on February 21, 1833. He was baptized by David Zook in 1875. On July 12, 1854, he married Rebecca Evans in Lewistown, Illinois. Six sons and six daughters were born to them. He was a farmer and blacksmith near Canton, Illinois. After being elected to the ministry about 1875, he served in the free ministry in the Cole Creek (now Canton) church. He died in Fulton County, Illinois, in 1904.

MICHAEL LYON, the father of Thomas D., was born in Grant County, West Virginia, on September 26, 1793. According to John Kline's diary, page 261 in *Life of John Kline*, by Benjamin Funk, Michael Lyon was established (ordained) in 1849 in the Greenland congregation, West Virginia. From Foster Bittinger's *History of the Church of the Brethren in the First District of West Virginia*, it is known that he lived at Hudson, in the District of Southern Illinois, in 1865. He was a charter member of the Hudson church at the time of the organization (1865) and was the first elder-in-charge. He died at Hudson on March 11, 1880.

THOMAS D. LYON was born in Grant County, West Virginia, March 3, 1821, the son of Michael and Louisa Stingley Lyon. On October 26, 1843, he married Mary Clark; four sons and five daughters were born to them. He was a farmer and a blacksmith at Hudson, Illinois, having come west about 1865. At the time of the organization of the Hudson congregation he was a resident minister. He was elected a deacon on May 21, 1849, and later called to the ministry in the Greenland congregation, West Virginia. From 1867 to 1901 he was elder-in-charge of the Hudson church. Always active in the work of the district, he walked great distances to preach in the various churches. Twice he served on Standing Committee. He died at Hudson on July 3, 1902.

MARTIN J. MCCLURE, a native of Virginia, was born on October 8, 1842. During the Civil War he served some time in the Army of the South. He was married in Virginia to Mollie Kelley; six sons and three daughters came into their home. Elected to the deaconship in the Fall Creek church, Indiana, on June 2, 1869, and called to the ministry in the same church, November 7, 1871, he was advanced to the eldership in Christian County, Illinois, August 25, 1883. He moved to Greene County, Missouri, in 1876, to Richland

County, Illinois, in 1880, then back to Christian County, and later, in 1891, to the Oakley church. Here he farmed and served in the free ministry; he was elder-in-charge for ten years. His preaching was strongly doctrinal and his style of discourse was argumentative in character. A leader in district meetings and Annual Meetings, he served in various offices, was much used in committee work, and served on Standing Committee five times. Later in life he gave up his fellowship with the church. He died in Decatur, Illinois, on August 10, 1921.

GRANT T. MCGUIRE was born in Madison County, Indiana, February 6, 1895. His parents were Melvill C. and Cora E. Bedel McGuire. He married Lula M. Wolfe of Coyle, Oklahoma, on September 5, 1913; one daughter was born to them. He united with the Church of the Brethren on November 11, 1906, and was baptized by Elder Luther Bedel. He was elected to the ministry in 1915 and ordained as an elder in 1928. From the Chicago Union Theological College he received a B.Th. degree and from Bethany Biblical Seminary a B.D. He farmed in Oklahoma from 1913 to 1925, and since then has given most of his time to the church. As a summer pastor he served the churches at Sheldon, Iowa, in 1931; Decatur, Illinois, in 1936; Mount Morris, Illinois, in 1937. For longer periods he has worked in these offices; part-time pastor, Panther Creek church, Illinois, 1925-1927; pastor, Canton, Illinois, 1927-1930; college and seminary student doing some student pastoral work, 1930-1933; pastor, Argos, Indiana, 1933-1935; pastor, Pasadena, California, 1937-1943; regional executive secretary associate, Pacific Coast Region, 1943-1945; pastor, Rocky Ford, Colorado, 1945-1948; pastor, Oakland, California, 1948—. Once he represented his district on Standing Committee.

H. B. MARTIN, son of William E. and Sarah Jackson Martin, was born in Hancock County, Indiana, on January 22, 1883. He married Mary Estella Wisheart on April 15, 1903; one son and two daughters came into their home. He was baptized by David Richerson in 1903, elected minister in 1903, and ordained an elder in 1916. His service to the church included these assignments: pastor, Summitville, Indiana, 1914; pastor, Virden, Illinois, 1921-1928; pastor, Oakland church, Gettysburg, Ohio, 1928-1935; superintendent of the Old Folks' Home, Middletown, Indiana, four years; superintendent of the Brethren Home at Darlow, Kansas, four years; superintendent of the Home for the Aged at Timberville, Virginia, two years. He died in Darke County, Ohio, on March 3, 1935.

B. F. MASTERSON was born at Mastersonville, Pennsylvania, February 20, 1848, the son of Joseph and Anna Stauffer Masterson. He was baptized in the Chiques congregation, Pennsylvania, in 1869. Elizabeth Engle became his wife on September 30, 1867; there were nine children born to them. He was elected to the office of deacon in 1880, to the ministry in 1884, and to the eldership on May 20, 1911. He moved to the Sugar Creek church, Sangamon County, Illinois, in 1876, and to the La Verne church, California, in 1891. From 1898 to 1900 he was engaged in Bible teaching and evangelistic work in Pennsylvania. He returned to Inglewood, California, in 1901, and five years later moved to Long Beach; when the church was organized there he served as pastor. He died in Long Beach on September 9, 1936.

JAMES MONROE MASTERSON, son of Samuel and Martha Bishop Masterson, both of Pennsylvania, was born at Frederick City, Maryland, June 24, 1867. He married Fannie B. Gibbel of Girard, Illinois, on February 22, 1899. She passed away September 25, 1947. To them were born one son and

three daughters. He attended Illinois State Normal and Mount Morris College. He taught in the rural schools seven years and farmed in Sangamon County, Illinois, thirty-five years. Uniting with the Church of the Brethren in early life, he was elected to the ministry in 1896 and ordained to the eldership in 1910. His ministerial service was largely in the Sugar Creek church in the free ministry and the eldership, but he also assisted at Virden, Illinois, and in various lines of district work. His present residence is Pacific Palisades, California.

IDA METZGER, daughter of Isaac and Susan Shively Metzger, was born near Cerro Gordo, Illinois, October 21, 1895. She was baptized in the Cerro Gordo church when about twelve years old. In 1908 she moved with her parents to California. After attending La Verne College some time she received an A.B. from Manchester College in 1919. In 1920 she began medical study at the University of Michigan Medical School, Ann Arbor, and graduated in 1924 with the M.D. degree. One year, 1924-1925, was spent in the St. Francis hospital in San Francisco. Dr. Metzger went to India in 1925, giving medical service in the Dahanu mission hospital. Returning to America in 1931, she rendered outstanding service in the State Hospital, Ypsilanti, Michigan, and in the Brethren service program, Elgin, Illinois. She is now living in La Verne, California.



IDA METZGER

JOHN METZGER, son of Jacob and Mary Butterbaugh Metzger, was born in Blair County, Pennsylvania, December 20, 1807. When he was twelve years old he moved near Dayton, Ohio, with his parents. On July 31, 1828, he was married to Hannah Ulrey in Montgomery County, Ohio; soon after their marriage they were both baptized. In 1834 they moved to Tippecanoe County, Indiana. In 1835 he was elected to the ministry and in 1843 was ordained as an elder. He moved near Cerro Gordo, Illinois, in 1861 and devoted much of his time to preaching. He went for miles to fill appointments in localities where there were but few members, making most of these trips on horseback; sometimes he would walk rather than disappoint a congregation. Through his preaching hundreds of people came into the church. He could fluently read and speak both German and English. Sometimes he would preach in English about forty minutes, then excuse himself to the English part of the congregation and preach in German. He was the moderator of the district meeting of Southern Illinois for fifteen years, served on many district committees, and was a member of the Standing Committee sixteen times. In 1878 he built a meetinghouse in Cerro Gordo at his own expense, and, in 1881, moved from the farm into Cerro Gordo. His second marriage was to Permelia Wolfe in 1889. While his residence was maintained in Cerro Gordo, the late winters of his life were spent at La Verne, California. He had preached in nearly all the principal cities between the Atlantic and the Pacific. He died in Cerro Gordo, on May 25, 1896.

JOHN WILBERT METZGER was born in Cerro Gordo, Illinois, on August 26, 1896, to John B. and Amanda Wagoner Metzger. On November 27, 1919, he was united in marriage to Pauline Price of Mount Morris, Illinois; they have one son and one daughter. He became a member of the Church of the Brethren in Cerro Gordo on October 27, 1907, bap-

tized by Isaac Frantz. Two years were spent in Mount Morris College and one year in Brown's Business College, Decatur, Illinois. After working for a short time as the county court reporter of Piatt County, he became a clerk of the Wabash Railroad Company in Decatur in 1917 and continues in that work. The Decatur church elected him to the office of deacon on January 23, 1938, and through the years has called him to other responsibilities. He has been a member of the district board of administration since 1942 and the secretary of this board since January 1944; from 1946 to 1947 he was a member of the General Brotherhood Board; he has also been active in promoting men's work organizations in the district for a number of years.

GEORGE W. MILLER, son of Solomon S. and Mary Miller, was born near Lima, Ohio, January 27, 1870. He married Minnie Cripe of Cerro Gordo, Illinois, July 11, 1893; three sons and three daughters were born to them. After studying for a brief time at Mount Morris College, he attended Bethany Seminary two years. He taught for several years in the rural schools of Piatt and Macon counties, Illinois, and was a farmer-preacher in the La Place congregation for almost forty years. He was baptized by Elder George W. Cripe in December 1893, elected to the ministry in the La Place church in 1902, and ordained to the eldership on December 4, 1909. In addition to his work in the La Place church he served as the pastor at Dixon, Illinois, one year; elder-in-charge of the Romine, Kaskaskia, and Pleasant Grove congregations in Southern Illinois; member of the district mission board (later the board of administration) for twenty-six years; delegate on Standing Committee



GEORGE W.
MILLER

at four Conferences; evangelist in many churches; officiant at many weddings; minister at two hundred funerals. Because of failing health he was forced to retire from the active ministry in 1940. He died in Urbana, Illinois, February 26, 1948.

HAROLD A. MILLER was born at Nappanee, Indiana, May 26, 1915, to Vernon E. and Nettie Overholser Miller. On October 17, 1926, he was baptized by John Frederick. He married Louise Reed September 5, 1937; one son and one daughter have been born to them. After attending Manchester College two years he graduated from Central Missouri State Teachers' College with an A.B.; Bethany Biblical Seminary granted him a B.D. degree in 1946. He was licensed to the ministry December 8, 1933; installed February 3, 1935; ordained to the eldership November 3, 1939. He has served the church in these capacities: pastor, Leeton, Missouri, 1937-1940; fieldman, Middle District of Missouri, 1938-1940; pastor, Middlebury, Indiana, 1941-1945; pastor, Woodland church, Astoria, Illinois, 1946-1947; pastor, Piqua, Ohio, since 1947; evangelist in a number of congregations; delegate on Standing Committee from Southern Illinois.



N. H. MILLER

NOAH H. MILLER, son of Solomon and Mary Miller, was born in Piatt County, Illinois, April 18, 1877. He married Elva D. Mellinger of Cerro Gordo, Illinois, in 1900; one son and two daughters were born to them. He attended Manchester College two years, Mount Morris College one year, and Bethany Biblical Seminary three years. Baptized by Elder Jacob Wyne in October

1897, he was elected to the office of deacon in 1908, called to the ministry in 1909, and ordained to the eldership in 1917. Following is a summary of his church activities: minister, Okaw, 1909-1917; pastor, Allison Prairie, 1917-1920; pastor, Decatur, 1926-1934; pastor, Mount Pleasant and Camp Creek in Northern Indiana since 1934; Standing Committeeman twice; secretary, District of Southern Illinois, nineteen years; moderator of district meeting one year; elder-in-charge of four congregations in Northern Indiana; member of district ministerial and mission board of Northern Indiana.

SOLOMON S. MILLER was born near Lima, Ohio, February 28, 1847. He married Mary Miller of Virginia, and to them were born eight children. Moving to Edgar County, Illinois, then to Piatt County, he settled on a farm near La Place. In this church he was the first Sunday-school superintendent, and also served as a deacon, a minister and an elder. He was a counselor and a liberal giver. He died in 1921.

DANIEL MOHLER was born in Cumberland County, Pennsylvania, January 18, 1834, to Allen and Elizabeth Kurtz Mohler. In 1852 the family moved by wagon to Carroll County, Indiana. In 1870 Brother Mohler came to Piatt County, Illinois, and in February 1872 married Sarah Catharine Wise, who died March 20, 1896. There were eleven children. He was baptized in 1867, elected to the ministry March 10, 1881, and later ordained as an elder. He died at Cerro Gordo, Illinois, January 3, 1917.

JOHN H. MOORE, son of David C. and Sarah Will Moore, was born at Salem, Virginia, April 8, 1846. He married Mary S. Bishop at Urbana, Illinois, December 28, 1871; two sons and two daughters were born to them. On September 21, 1889, he married Phebe A. Brower, of Mexico, Indiana. At

Cedar, Missouri, he united with the Church of the Brethren in 1859. The Urbana, Illinois, church elected him to the



J. H. MOORE

ministry in 1869, and the Lanark church, Illinois, ordained him to the eldership in 1880. By trade he was a painter from 1864 to 1876. For seven years, 1876-1883, he was the editor of the *Brethren at Work*; from 1883 to 1884 and again from 1891 to 1915 he was the editor of the *Gospel Messenger*. He was the author of *Our Saturday Night* (1911), *New Testament Doctrines*

(1914), *The Boy and the Man* (1923), and *Some Brethren Pathfinders* (1929). In 1898 he traveled in Europe and Bible lands and wrote a series of articles about those lands. Having a history-loving mind, he gathered material and wrote extensively about Brethren history; much of this material is preserved in the J. H. Moore Memorial Library at the Brethren Publishing House, Elgin, Illinois. Strong in the pulpit as well as with the pen, he did much to improve the preaching in his day. He, too, was a strong factor in building churches in Florida, where he died on December 23, 1935. He will be remembered as a leader in Annual Conference and as one of our ablest editors.

PHILIP A. MOORE, son of Thomas and Dollie Spitzer Moore, was born at Round Hill, Virginia, August 27, 1826. About 1830, his father mysteriously disappeared. When eight years old, Philip was put out from home to a farmer, on the common terms of receiving a horse, a saddle and a bridle when of age. At the age of sixteen he decided to learn a trade and was apprenticed to his brother, David C. Moore, at Franklin, Virginia, as a cabinet maker. Here he

remained three years, learning the trade of carpenter and builder. He served one year and eight months in the Mexican War and then returned to Roanoke County, Virginia. In 1848 he moved to Illinois in company with James R. Gish and others, stopping in Tazewell County. On March 1, 1857, he married Clarinda Robinson; she died January 28, 1904, at Los Angeles, California. In 1856 he moved to Cedar County, Missouri, where he was called to the ministry and ordained to the eldership. He had united with the church on June 27, 1852. In 1860 he, with his brother David and their families, returned to Roanoke, Illinois. In 1896 he went to California, where he spent the latter part of his life. His house was always open for his friends, and many, as the years passed by, enjoyed its hospitality. A great part of his property accumulations was donated to the General Mission Board. He died on March 7, 1907.

DELMAR HARRISON MOYER was born July 13, 1924, near Dayton, Ohio, the son of Harrison C. and Glenna Stebbins Moyer. In September 1933 he was baptized in the Lower Miami church, was elected to the ministry on August 5, 1942, and was ordained on September 2, 1943. On May 31, 1946 he was married to Dorothy Harshbarger. They have one son. Attending Manchester College, he received an A.B. in 1946; a B.D. was received from Bethany Biblical Seminary in 1949. In the summer of 1948 he was sum-



DELMAR MOYER
AND FAMILY

mer pastor of the Fairview church in Southern Indiana. Since June 1, 1949, he has been the part-time pastor of the Oakley church, Southern Illinois.

GEORGE ROBERT MORGAN was born in Jefferson County, Illinois, March 23, 1910, to Homer and Mary Agnes Wescott Morgan. He married Beulah Grace Richardson of Mount Vernon, Illinois, August 19, 1931; three sons and three daughters were born to them. He united with the Church of the Brethren at Pleasant Grove, Illinois, in February 1936 and was baptized by Elder Sherman Shoemaker. By vocation

he was a mechanic at Mount Vernon. He was pastor at Pleasant Grove, Illinois, from 1939 to 1944, and minister at Bethel and Wolf Prairie from 1936 to 1937.



A. P. MUSSELMAN
AND WIFE

A. P. MUSSELMAN, son of Aaron M. and Catharine Prowant Musselman, was born in Carroll County, Illinois, June 28, 1882. He married Alta Mae Mowery at Arcadia, Nebraska, February 16, 1910; to them were born two sons. He attended normal school at Kearney, Nebraska, and spent three years at Bethany Biblical Seminary. He

was baptized by Elder A. J. Nickey in 1908, elected to the ministry in 1911, and ordained to the eldership in 1913. As pastor and elder he served these churches: Beatrice, Nebraska, 1913-1916; Batavia, Illinois, 1916-1919; Four Mile, Indiana, 1919-1924; Flora, Indiana, 1924-1929; Lima, Ohio, 1929-1939; Anderson, Indiana, 1939-1947; Girard, Illinois, since 1947. He has served as Standing Committeeman; member, district ministerial boards, nineteen years; moderator of district meeting, six times; Brethren service representative for his district; evangelist in a number of states.

PETER S. MYERS was born in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, in October 1827. On February 12, 1851, he married Sarah Groff. He was baptized at Germany Valley, Pennsylvania, in 1854, elected deacon in 1857, and elected to the ministry in the Spring Run church, Pennsylvania, in 1860. His wife died in October 1884. In 1888 he moved to Cerro Gordo, Illinois, where he married Magdalene Frantz. He moved to Covina, California, in 1891, and later to Los Angeles. He erected the East Los Angeles church, assisted by Andrew Emmert, preached the dedicatory sermon, and had charge of the congregation for a number of years.

ANDREW NEHER was born in Clinton County, Indiana, on September 15, 1838, and died at McCune, Kansas, on January 1, 1918. On November 4, 1860, he married Elizabeth Wolf; to them three sons were born. In June 1869 he moved to Marion County, Illinois, and lived in the Romine congregation fifteen years. Soon after locating in this community he was elected to the ministry. On December 24, 1877, he was advanced to the second degree, and in April 1882 was ordained to the eldership. In March 1884 he moved to Cherokee County, Kansas, and in 1894 to Crawford County, the same state. In 1898 he moved to North Dakota and was overseer of the Salem church until his return to Kansas in 1904.

DANIEL NEHER was born in Rockingham County, Virginia. Called to the ministry on March 27, 1846, he was ordained in 1858. His wife was Mary Metzger; they had three sons, who became ministers: Joseph D., Andrew, and John F. He moved to Preble County, Ohio, then in 1837 to Clinton County, Indiana, where he served in the ministry for twenty-five years. Later he moved to Marion County, Illinois, where he served faithfully and sacrificially in the ministry. It was here that he personally bore one half of the expense of building a meetinghouse.

JOHN H. NEHER was the son of Elder Martin Neher, an active minister in the La Place, Illinois, congregation. His youth was spent in the La Place community. The earliest record of his ministerial service places him in a country church at McCune, Kansas. For a time he served as a missionary pastor at Palestine, Arkansas. Moving to the Hudson church in Southern Illinois in 1903, he served as pastor for several years, then he was at the Panther Creek church at Roanoke, Illinois, as pastor and elder for a number of years. He was active in the district and did much evangelistic work. Extensive study, a strong, clear voice, and an unusual personality made him successful in his ministry. He married Nancy E. Himes, a capable ministerial helper; they were the parents of one son and two daughters. He died at Hudson, Illinois, in 1928.

MARTIN NEHER was born in Rockingham County, Virginia, on May 21, 1812, the son of Martin and Mary Elizabeth Shunderman Neher. He was the father of twelve children. A full account of his services is not available, but a long, active, devoted, and sacrificial ministry is reported by some who knew of his work as an active minister and elder in the church at La Place, Illinois.

LELAND ALVIN NELSON was born in Portland, Oregon, on January 27, 1918, the son of Gustaf Jacob William and Edith M. Ryden Nelson. He was baptized by F. H. Barr on January 8, 1933. Madeline Virginia Stouffer of Hagerstown, Maryland, became his wife on July 9, 1939; they have two sons. An A.B. degree was received from McPherson College in 1941 and a B.D. from Bethany Biblical Seminary in 1944. He was elected to the ministry in 1936 and ordained to the eldership on September 18, 1942. In a number of capacities he has worked in the church: pastor, Nickerson, Kansas, 1939-1941; pastor, Girard, Illinois, 1941-1947; moderator of district meeting of Southern Illinois, 1945; district youth adviser, 1943-1947; member, executive committee, Illinois Council of Churches, 1944-1946; co-fieldworker in Southern Illinois with Elder D. B. Cave, 1946-1947; member, Camp Mack board of directors, 1946-1947; member of Standing Committee; evangelist in a number of churches; pastor, Springfield, Oregon, 1947—.



LELAND A.
NELSON

GRANVILLE NEVINGER was born in Preble County, Ohio, on September 27, 1855. In 1868 the family moved to Bond County, Illinois. He taught six winter terms in Bond County and seven in Fayette County. On December 26, 1875, he married Elizabeth Van Dyke; eight children were born to them. He and his wife were baptized by Elder J. H. Goodwin at Mulberry Grove, Illinois. In May 1880 he was elected to the office of deacon, on May 27, 1883, was called to the ministry, and in 1887 was ordained to the eldership in the Kaskaskia church, Illinois. He attributed much of his success in the ministry to the help and encouragement given him by his wife. The Nevingers moved near Beecher City,

where the Kaskaskia church was afterward organized with him as elder. In 1900 he moved to Pueblo, Colorado, and in 1902 to Rocky Ford, Colorado; here he lived for ten years. On June 7, 1911, his wife died. In January 1912 he returned to Illinois, making his home at Decatur. He did some evangelistic work in the district. On November 27, 1912, he was married to Mary M. Sadler of Onekama, Michigan. He took charge of the Oak Grove church, Illinois. Later they moved to Michigan, where he died on March 31, 1925.

AMOS JOSEPH NICKEY, son of Benjamin Franklin and Catharine Wert Nickey, was born in Cumberland County, Pennsylvania, November 11, 1853. He taught several years



AMOS J. NICKEY
AND WIFE

in Pennsylvania and then came to Macon County, Illinois, when a young man. In 1878 he was baptized by Elder Jacob Waggoner. He married Mary Heckman on March 2, 1880; three sons and three daughters were born to them. Two daughters, Flora and Barbara, served as missionaries in India. From 1877 to 1880 he taught in Macon County. He was called to the ministry near Oakley, Illinois, January 2, 1882, and was ordained to the eldership on October 23, 1905. His record

of church service is as follows: farmer-minister at Oakley, 1880-1898; Juniata, Nebraska, 1898-1903; Alvo, Nebraska, 1903-1907; Kearney, Nebraska, 1907-1916; minister and elder, Monticello, Minnesota, 1916-1935; member of the

Nebraska district mission board, 1903-1916; evangelist; member, committee of arrangements for the 1926 Annual Conference at Lincoln, Nebraska; liberal contributor to foreign missions. His last years were spent at North Manchester, Indiana, where he died on February 5, 1940.

BARBARA MARIE NICKEY was born to Amos J. and Mary Heckman Nickey at Oakley, Illinois, on April 5, 1886. She united with the Church of the Brethren in the Oakley congregation, September 19, 1897. She spent two years teaching public school in Nebraska after the family moved there, then went to Mount Morris College and later to Bethany Biblical Seminary. In 1908 she entered the American Medical Missionary College of Battle Creek, Michigan, which two years later united with the College of Physicians and Surgeons, Chicago; there she took the last two years of her medical work and received her M.D. degree in June 1912. She was offered a place on the faculty of the College of Physicians and Surgeons, but took up work in the Cook County Hospital, where she remained until September 1914. Dr. Nickey sailed for India in January 1915 to realize her ambition to become a missionary doctor. Beginning her medical work at Dahanu, she was handicapped by meager medical facilities and by caste prejudice. Later a dispensary was built and, in 1926, the present hospital was erected. After more than thirty years of service Dr. Nickey is known and loved over all that territory.



BARBARA M.
NICKEY

SAMUEL GEORGE NICKEY was born in Cumberland County, Pennsylvania, March 22, 1866, the son of Benjamin Franklin and Catharine Wert Nickey. He came to Illinois when a



SAMUEL G. NICKEY
AND WIFE

young man and was baptized by Elder S. S. Miller in 1890. Annie E. Arnold of Lintner, Illinois, became his wife on January 29, 1891. They had two sons and one daughter. His wife died on May 27, 1905. On January 1, 1908, he married Susie E. Sheckler of Ellisville, Illinois, who passed away June 4, 1929. On June 27, 1930, he married Mrs. Anna M. Wagner of Carlisle, Pennsylvania. He studied at Mount Morris College and Bethany

Biblical Seminary. Elected to the office of deacon at La Place, Illinois, in 1896, he was called to the ministry in the same church in 1899 and ordained to the eldership in the Oakley congregation November 30, 1906. Until 1912 he was a farmer-minister; from 1912 to 1915, pastor at Moorefield, Nebraska; pastor at Haxtun, Colorado, for eight years, largely on his own financial support; pastor at McClave, Colorado, 1924-1926; pastor, Sterling, Colorado, 1928-1935; ad-interim pastor at Denver, five months. Six times he was on Standing Committee; for two years he served as district missionary secretary in Nebraska. His present home is at Carlisle, Pennsylvania.

EDWARD O. NORRIS was born in Madison County, Indiana, April 11, 1874, to Charles H. and Anna Maria Huff Norris. He married Anna M. Richards on June 17, 1894; to them were born three sons and one daughter. On December 19, 1894,

he was baptized by Elder David Richards. Elected to the ministry on October 3, 1902, he was ordained to the eldership in 1904. Following is a summary of his church activity: minister, Beech Grove, Indiana, 1902-1922; pastor, Toledo, Ohio, 1922-1925; pastor, Champaign, Illinois, 1925-1929; pastor, Astoria, Illinois, 1929-1932; pastor, Richmond, Indiana, since 1934; Standing Committeeman seven times; moderator of district meeting eight times; member of district mission board seven years; evangelist in ninety meetings.

F. A. OLIVER, son of Harrison and Margaret Hutton Oliver, was born in Van Buren County, Iowa, June 16, 1902. He married Florence Vera Rogers of Selma, Iowa, February 1, 1924; they have three sons and four daughters. In 1912 he was baptized by W. W. Glotfelty. He spent one year at Bethany Biblical Seminary. He farmed near Selma, Iowa, most of the time up to 1948; for one year he was an assistant mail carrier at Ottumwa, Iowa. In October 1944 he was elected to the ministry. During 1945-1946 he was pastor at Libertyville, Iowa; since March 1, 1948, he has been pastor at Hurricane Creek in Southern Illinois.

I. CLIFFORD PAUL was born in Carroll County, Illinois, February 9, 1898, the son of Edward E. and Mary Ellen Bowman Paul. He married Margie Ruth Fouts of Frederic, Iowa, on June 8, 1922; they have one son and two daughters. His educational advantages are indicated by the listing of schools attended and academic degrees received: Mount Morris College, B.A.; Bethany Biblical Seminary, B.D.; Ohio State University, B.S. and M.A. He taught in public high schools in Illinois, Ohio, and Pennsylvania from 1921 to 1946. He was baptized by Rev. J. E. Miller in December 1911, elected to the ministry in November 1919, and ordained to the eldership in March 1929, and has served these pastorates: Pleasant View, Ohio, 1929-1937; Virden, Illinois, 1942-1943;

Windber, Pennsylvania, 1944-1946; Lanark, Illinois, 1946-1948; Meyersdale, Pennsylvania, 1948—.

RUSSELL E. PEPPLER, son of Elmer and Nellie Bosler Pepple, was born in Noble County, Indiana, August 7, 1915. He was baptized by Elder C. O. Gump in May 1926. Seventeen



R. E. PEPPLER

months of 1942 and 1943 were spent in C.P.S. camp at Lagro, Indiana. He was elected minister on August 16, 1942, and ordained an elder on October 11, 1946. He has served the church in a number of ways: in the free ministry, Pleasant Hill, Indiana, 1942-1946; as assistant pastor, Blue River, Indiana, 1943-1946; as summer pastor, Bethany church, Indiana, 1945; as a Brethren service worker at New Paris, Indiana, summer of 1946; as pastor and elder, Kaskaskia, Illinois, since 1946; as elder, Hurricane Creek, Illinois, and as an evangelist.

WOODFORD W. PETERS, son of Isaac and Marry Eller Peters, was born in Virginia, June 21, 1889. His marriage to Rowena Stoner took place on June 21, 1917. He united with the Church of the Brethren in 1908, was elected to the ministry in 1911, and was ordained to the eldership in 1919. He received an A.B. degree from Manchester College, 1915, and an A.M. from Ohio State University, 1921. His work has been largely in the field of education: teacher, public schools,



W. W. PETERS

1907-1911 and 1915-1919; teacher, Manchester College, 1919-1924 and 1939-1941; president, Mount Morris College, 1925-1928; graduate student and teacher, University of Illinois, including much active pastoral work in the Champaign church and work in the district; dean, Drury College, 1937-1939; president, McPherson College, 1941-1950. For many years he served on various denominational boards and is now a member of the General Brotherhood Board.

HENRY E. PITTMAN was born in Adams County, Illinois, November 2, 1870, the son of Lewis and Phoebe Jane Swain Pittman. He married Myra E. Arnold of Liberty, Illinois, June 22, 1904. One son and two daughters were born to them. Early in life he united with the Church of the Brethren at Loraine, Illinois. From 1890 to 1892 he attended Mount Morris College. Elected to the ministry in the Loraine church in May 1892, he served there as farmer-minister and pastor for over twenty-five years, also filling appointments at Liberty and other near-by churches. He died at his home in Adams County on December 25, 1919.

THEODORE B. PRICE, born in Carroll County, Maryland, on May 5, 1860, was the son of Joseph and Sarah Bowman Price. On January 15, 1880, he married Savilla Hoff of York County, Pennsylvania. To them were born one son and two daughters. He was a farmer in Maryland, Pennsylvania, Illinois, Iowa, and North Dakota. About 1878 he united with the Church of the Brethren, was elected a deacon in 1897, a minister in 1907, and an elder in 1912. In Pennsylvania he served in the Upper Codorus and Upper Conewago congregations and in the Astoria and Woodland congregations in Southern Illinois as deacon, minister and elder, 1895-1907. He was at Fairview, Iowa, 1907-1911. From 1911 to 1914 he was minister and elder at Bowden Valley, North Dakota. He died May 20, 1914.

OSCAR B. REDENBO, son of Justis Davis and Mary Elizabeth Fansler Redenbo, was born near Pleasant Mound, Illinois, January 12, 1883. He married Sadie Hahn of Bond County, Illinois, on November 29, 1903; two sons and one daughter were born to them. He received an A.B. from Mount Morris College in 1921, and an A.M. from Northwestern University in 1922. In December 1903 he was baptized by Elder M. L. Hahn. Elected to the ministry in the Hurricane Creek church in 1904, he was ordained to the eldership November 16, 1912, and served pastorates in the Hurricane Creek, Canton, and Allison Prairie churches in Southern Illinois. In Northern Illinois he served the Rockford church as elder and the Pine Creek church as student-pastor, and with his wife, had charge of the orphanage in the old D. L. Miller home in Mount Morris for six years. In addition to his ministry Brother Redenbo spent thirty-four years in schoolwork. He died in Whiteside County, Illinois, September 4, 1943.

J. BENTON RHOADES, son of Paul J. and Orpha Benton



J. BENTON
RHOADES

Rhoades, was born at Astoria, Illinois, March 31, 1920. He married Ruby Frantz of North Manchester, Indiana, on November 25, 1943; to them three daughters have been born. He united with the Church of the Brethren in September 1927, and was baptized by Oliver Austin. He was elected to the ministry in 1937. He received his A.B. degree from Manchester College and his B.D. from Bethany Biblical Seminary. The summer of 1939 Benton attended the first Brethren work camp near Scranton, Pennsylvania, and the summer of 1940 he served in Mexico under the American

Friends' Service Committee as assistant project supervisor. The following summer he was pastor of the Romine church, Illinois; during the year 1941-1942, assistant pastor at North Manchester, Indiana; 1942, summer pastor of the Eel River church, Indiana; 1943-1944, chairman of the National B.Y.P.D.; 1943-1945, chairman of the United Christian Youth Movement. He took up missionary work near Quito, Ecuador, in 1946, as the pioneer Brethren missionary there.

PETER REPLOGLE was born in Pennsylvania on April 3, 1785. He moved to Montgomery County, Ohio, then to Carroll County, Indiana, where he was elected to the ministry in the Deer Creek church in 1829. In 1856 he moved to Macon County, Illinois, and became one of the charter members of the church organized near Oakley, then called the Sangamon Valley church, later known as Cerro Gordo, Macon County, and now the Oakley church.

ROBERT E. RICHARDS was born in Champaign County, Illinois, February 20, 1926, the son of L. H. and Margaret Palfrey Richards. He was united in marriage to Mary Leah Cline of Vienna, Virginia, on February 17, 1946. They have one daughter. At Champaign, in April 1942, he was baptized by Merlin E. Garber. He attended Bridgewater College two years, received an A.B. from the University of Illinois in 1947, and is now doing graduate work at the University of Illinois. His interest in athletics and skill in pole vaulting have led to his participation in the Olympic games. He was licensed at Champaign on November 19, 1943, and ordained on April 9, 1946. In 1946 he served as summer pastor in the Oakley church. For a time he was the assistant pastor at Champaign, Illinois. He is now an assistant professor at the University of Illinois.

DOW A. RIDGELY, son of Ira Ridgely of Richland County, Illinois, and Nancy Ellen Jones Ridgely of Edwards County,

Illinois, was born November 30, 1879. He was baptized by John Clayborne in February 1901. On November 6, 1907, he



DOW A. RIDGELY
AND WIFE

married Pearl C. Forney of Parkersburg, Illinois, the daughter of John M. and Delila Berg Forney, who had a large part in establishing Brethren churches in the southern part of our district; she was baptized in 1903 and has been an earnest church worker as chorister, teacher and leader of women's work. In this home were born three sons and four daughters. He attended Illinois State Teachers College and Mount Morris College. For twenty-seven years he farmed and taught in rural schools. He was elected

to the ministry on November 1, 1903, and ordained an elder on November 18, 1911. In the Walnut Grove, Martins Creek and La Motte Prairie churches he has served as minister and elder. Since 1943 he has been the secretary of district meeting and since 1942 a member of the district historical committee.

GEORGE HOWARD RIDGELY was born in Richland County, Illinois, August 7, 1893, the son of Ira Oscar and Maranda Bowers Ridgely. He married Mary Edna Spidle on August 30, 1930. Elder W. E. West baptized him on November 11, 1911. After graduating from Lewis Institute he did graduate work at the University of Chicago. From 1926 to 1940 he taught at Lewis Institute; since 1940 he has farmed in Richland County. He was elected deacon in 1939. Since 1945

he has been a member of the district board of administration, and since 1946 the secretary-treasurer of men's work.

MARY EDNA SPIDLE RIDGELY, daughter of E. C. and Annie Elizabeth Kuntz Spidle, was born in Cumberland County, Pennsylvania, July 11, 1896. She was married to George Howard Ridgely on August 30, 1930. She was baptized by Elder W. I. Sheaffer on October 14, 1910. Her B.S. degree was received from Lewis Institute. District director of children's work since 1941, she has also taken part in camp movements and activities.

DOLAR C. RITCHEY was born in Carroll County, Indiana, April 6, 1899, the son of Aaron and Christiana Batzel Ritchey. On July 28, 1920, he married Ella May Wenner. On November 6, 1926, he married Lois Mary Teagarden. Three sons were born into this home. He attended normal school at Marion, Indiana, spent two years at Manchester College, and also studied in the University of Vincennes. He united with the Church of the Brethren on February 2, 1919, and was baptized by W. L. Hatcher. Licensed to the ministry on May 26, 1925, he was ordained to the eldership in 1931. His positions in the church include: farmer and pastor, Howard church, Indiana; pastor and elder, La Motte Prairie, Illinois, 1929-1944; pastor and elder, Allison Prairie, Illi-



DOLAR C. RITCHEY
AND WIFE

nois, 1933-1944; pastor and elder, Beech Grove, Ohio, since 1944; Standing Committeeman once; vice-president, board of administration, and secretary, ministerial board, Southern Illinois; evangelist in a number of congregations. While he was serving the pastorates in our district much of his support came from teaching in the public schools.

OSCAR WILLIAM RITCHEY, son of Dolar C. and Ella May Wenner Ritchey, was born in Tippecanoe County, Indiana, November 20, 1921. He was baptized by his father on November 7, 1932. His marriage to Mildred Walton of Hutsonville, Indiana, took place on June 27, 1943. One term was spent in study at Bethany Biblical Seminary. He was elected to the ministry May 9, 1942; now he follows the occupation of farmer.

THOMAS A. ROBINSON, son of Allen and Mary Showalter Robinson, was born August 3, 1853, near Chandlerville, Illinois. In March 1870 he was baptized by Daniel Vaniman. On October 4, 1877, he married Addie Gish; four sons and four daughters were born to them. On October 25, 1880, he was elected to the ministry at Ashland, Illinois. The family moved to Douglas County, Kansas, in 1887; to Mansfield, Illinois, in 1900; to Adams County, Illinois, in 1907; to Muscatine, Iowa, in 1910; later to Maxwell, Iowa; then to Denver, Colorado. He was ordained in 1910. Leaving Denver in 1914, he was pastor at the Alington church, Ohio. He died at Greenville, Ohio, on October 22, 1938.

CHARLES RODDIS was born in Warwick, England, March 19, 1854, the son of Samuel and Louise Brownuch Roddis. He came to America in May 1876. On January 3, 1882, he was married to Elizabeth Cole of Missouri (daughter of Nicholas and Annie Margaret Cole, natives of Germany). One son and one daughter were adopted in their child-

hood. Sister Roddis died February 14, 1906. On September 12, 1907, he married Pearl Lovell of Astoria, Illinois. He united with the Church of England at the age of fifteen, then with the Presbyterian Church after he came to America. He and his wife were baptized into the Church of the Brethren on December 2, 1894. He was elected a minister in the Woodland church near Astoria, Illinois, November 5, 1897, and ordained an elder in 1904. As a farmer-minister he served in the Woodland church. He died April 2, 1910.

J. J. SCROGUM was born in Augusta County, Virginia, on January 12, 1867, to George Henry and Rebecca Barger Scrogum. He married Rebecca Miller of Weyers Cave, Virginia, on March 24, 1895; to them were born two sons and two daughters. His education was received in Normal College, Lewistown, Illinois, the National Normal University, Lebanon, Ohio, and Bethany Biblical Seminary. He taught school thirteen terms. In April 1895 he was baptized by Abe Garber, elected deacon in 1907, called as a minister in 1914, and ordained an elder in 1930. He has worked in the following capacities: Southern Illinois district Sunday-school secretary, 1906-1907; member of Southern Illinois district mission board, 1908-1913; ten years as traveling secretary for the General Mission Board, Bethany Biblical Seminary, and Elizabethtown College; full-time pastor, Shamokin, Pennsylvania. He organized three churches: Hart, Michigan, Black Fork and Elkins, West Virginia. Sometimes he walked fourteen miles to reach mission points and isolated members. He regularly attended church for forty-eight years and eight months without a Sunday's absence. He died December 7, 1949, at Elkins, West Virginia.

S. J. C. SENGER was born near Cherry Grove, Virginia, January 19, 1871. He married Ida Bucher on March 23, 1897; to them four sons and five daughters were born. He was bap-

tized December 13, 1891, elected to the office of deacon October 11, 1902, called to the ministry September 1, 1906, and ordained to the eldership October 26, 1927. A preacher in the Woodland church near Astoria, Brother Senger was also a successful farmer and orchardist. He died November 21, 1938.

PHILIP A. SHEARER, son of Jacob and Elizabeth Ziegler Shearer, was born in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, December 19, 1857. He married Sarah B. Gibbel of Auburn,



PHILIP A. SHEARER AND
PHILIP SNELL

Illinois, December 28, 1882; to them were born one son and three daughters. He married Anna E. Bowman of Cerro Gordo, Illinois, November 2, 1910. In 1881 he moved to Auburn; in 1918 he retired from the farm and moved to Decatur, Illinois. Becoming a member of the Church of the Brethren in December 1898, he was elected deacon in 1899. From 1903 to 1929 he was the treasurer of the board of trustees of the Home at Girard, Illinois, and was a trustee of Mount Morris College from 1919 to 1930. In 1918 he en-

dowed the Bible department of Mount Morris College with twenty thousand dollars in memory of his daughter, the late Stella Shearer Myers; he also presented a grand piano to the college and gave liberally to other school projects. His death occurred at Decatur on November 7, 1930.

ERNEST FRANCIS SHERFY, son of John and Louise Kinsie Sherfy, was born in Franklin County, Kansas, January 18, 1883. At the age of thirteen he was baptized. The Scott Valley church, Kansas, called him to the ministry on February 20, 1903. After a year in the state normal school at Emporia, Kansas, he taught three years, attended McPherson College, later studied in Bethany Biblical Seminary and Moody Bible Institute. On May 20, 1908, he married Effie Mae Strohm of Abilene, Kansas. He spent one year in city mission work at Armourdale, Kansas, has held many revival meetings in various states, and has done pastoral work in a number of churches, among which was Woodland in Southern Illinois. At the present he is pastor at Denton, Maryland.

RUSSELL A. SHERMAN was born in DeKalb County, Indiana, on October 11, 1899, the son of Edwin A. and Mary Haynes Sherman. He married Lydia Marie Wirt of Virden, Illinois, May 31, 1924; they have one son and one daughter. He was elected to the ministry in 1918 and ordained to the eldership in 1926. An A.B. degree was received from Manchester College, an M.S. from Indiana University, and his M.Th. from Winona Lake School of Theology; he has studied also in Bethany Biblical Seminary and Arizona State Teachers' College. His work in Southern Illinois was as pastor at Springfield (1926-1928) and district director of religious education. After 1928 his work was in the Northern District of Indiana, at the Cedar Lake, New Salem, Cedar Creek and Pleasant Chapel churches, excepting two years spent as teacher and part-time pastor in Phoenix, Arizona. He has been Standing Committeeman three times.

LEVI S. SHIVELY, son of John J. and Leah Blickenstaff Shively, was born near Cerro Gordo, Illinois, October 10, 1884. He was baptized by Elder John Wright in November

1898. His first wife was Emma Gertrude Whisler of Sterling, Illinois, whom he married on August 26, 1906; four sons



L. S. SHIVELY

were born to them. His second wife was Edna B. Wolf of Franklin Grove, Illinois; they were married June 9, 1934. He graduated from the University of Michigan in 1908 with an A.B. degree; received an M.A. and a Ph.D. from the University of Chicago. He taught country schools near Cerro Gordo, 1905-1906; Mount Morris College, 1908-1915 and 1917-1928 (president, 1918-1921); Ball State Teachers' College, Muncie, Indiana, 1928—. He is the author of *A College Algebra*. Elected to the ministry in the Cerro

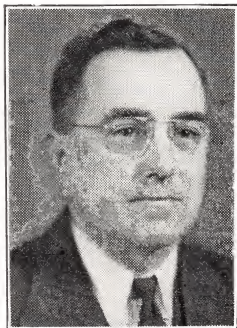
Gordo church on December 31, 1905, he was ordained to the eldership in 1917, and has rendered ministerial service at Cerro Gordo and Mount Morris. Since 1928 he has been the elder of the Muncie church. For approximately ten years he was a member of the board of Christian education of Southern Indiana. He was a trustee of Mount Morris College and later a trustee of Manchester College for six years.

D. WARREN SHOCK was born at Huntington, Indiana, May 1, 1877, to Henry and Mary Flory Shock. Daisy M. Hollinger of Greenville, Ohio, became his wife on March 16, 1902; one son and two daughters were born to them. His second marriage, to Mary Hoots of Decatur, Illinois, took place on March 27, 1921. He was baptized by Elder Quinter Calvert of Southern Ohio, February 20, 1892. He attended Manchester College, 1897-1901; graduated from Northwestern Bible and Missionary Training School, 1915; attended Bethany Biblical Seminary, 1910-1911; received a B.S.L. degree from Can-

ton Bible School, 1907; was granted B.D., Th.D., and D.D. degrees from Southern School of Divinity by correspondence. After homesteading at Osage, Saskatchewan, from 1900 to 1906, he taught at La Verne College from 1906 to 1909. Elected to the ministry April 25, 1896, he was ordained to the eldership in August 1906. As a mission pastor he served five churches: Minneapolis, Minnesota; Minot, North Dakota; Phoenix, Arizona; Spokane, Washington; and Michigan City, Indiana. His other pastorates were: Ivester, Iowa; Girard, Illinois, 1919-1922; Raisin, California; Flora, Indiana. He served three times on Standing Committee and did evangelistic work in a number of churches.

SHERMAN HENRY SHOEMAKER, son of Lewis Abraham and Elizabeth Philips Shoemaker, was born in Huntington County, Indiana, April 18, 1883. He was baptized by Homer Caskey on March 28, 1912. He and Matilda Elizabeth Ragon of Mount Vernon, Illinois, were married on June 23, 1909; four sons and six daughters were born to them. As a carpenter he lived and worked at Brook, Indiana, 1902-1905; Chicago, Illinois, 1905-1913; and at Mount Vernon, Illinois, 1913-1947. Called to the ministry on September 21, 1913, he was ordained to the eldership on October 13, 1928. He served the Pleasant Grove church in Southern Illinois as pastor from 1913 to 1947.

CHALMER GEORGE SHULL, son of William H. and Clara Gibson Shull, was born near Virden, Illinois, August 6, 1892. He was baptized by I. J. Harshbarger on November 8, 1908. On December 24, 1917, he was married to Mary Speicher of Waterloo, Iowa. For



CHALMER G.
SHULL

two years, he was principal of the Pleasant Hill school, near Girard, Illinois. Then he attended Mount Morris College, receiving an A.B. in 1917; in 1919 he received his B.D. from Bethany Biblical Seminary. He was elected to the ministry on May 10, 1914, and ordained to the eldership on November 23, 1919. During his last year at Bethany he served as pastor of the Douglas Park mission in Chicago and also as traveling secretary of the student volunteers, 1918-1919. The Shulls went to the India mission field in 1920 and returned on furlough with their two children in 1927. In 1929 he received his M.A. from Northwestern University. Mrs. Shull died in India on August 15, 1935. His second marriage was to Susan Stoner at Anklesvar, India, January 1, 1937; they have one daughter. They are now located at Ahwa. He is an educator and evangelist.

ERNEST MELVIN SHULL was born at Girard, Illinois, the son of William H. and Clara Gibson Shull. He married Lois Irene Netzley on August 17, 1937; one son and one daughter

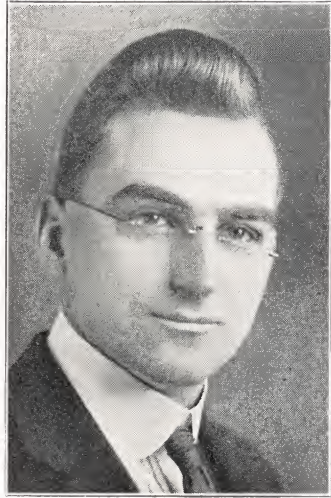


ERNEST M.
SHULL

have been born into their home. He united with the Church of the Brethren when seven years old, and was baptized by Oliver H. Austin on February 5, 1923. From Manchester College he received an A.B. degree in 1937, from Bethany Biblical Seminary a B.D. in 1942, and from the Kennedy School of Missions an M.A. in 1945. For eight summers he taught in church camps. He was elected to the ministry in the North Manchester church in 1941 and ordained to the eldership on September 22, 1943. For three months in 1941 he was a pastor in West Virginia, and for two years (1942-1944) served as pastor at Lena, Illinois. The Shulls sailed for India on February 18, 1946, and have been busy with language study;

they are living at Dahanu Road, Thana district. He was the moderator of district meeting in 1948, giving the address in Marathi.

JESSE CHARLES SHULL was born in Macoupin County, Illinois, August 7, 1895, the second son of William H. and Clara Gibson Shull. When twelve years old, he was baptized by Elder D. B. Gibson. On September 4, 1919, he was married to Clara Evelyn Michael of Colorado Springs, Colorado; three sons were born to them. He was granted an A.B. by Manchester College, B.D., M.Th., and Th.D. degrees by Bethany Biblical Seminary, and an A.M. by Northwestern University. Graduate work was done at Chicago University, the Divinity School of the University of Chicago, the Presbyterian Theological Seminary, Chicago, and the Congregational Seminary, Chicago. After his ordination to the ministry on December 9, 1917, he served these Brethren pastorates; La Porte, Indiana, 1918-1919; Auburn, Indiana, as student-pastor, 1919-1920; Springfield, Illinois, 1921-1926. Since 1926 he has been working outside the Church of the Brethren.



JESSE C. SHULL

MERLIN C. SHULL was born at Virden, Illinois, August 29, 1897, to William H. and Clara Gibson Shull. On May 22, 1921, he married Pearl Marie Grosh; one son and two daughters were born to them. Manchester College conferred an

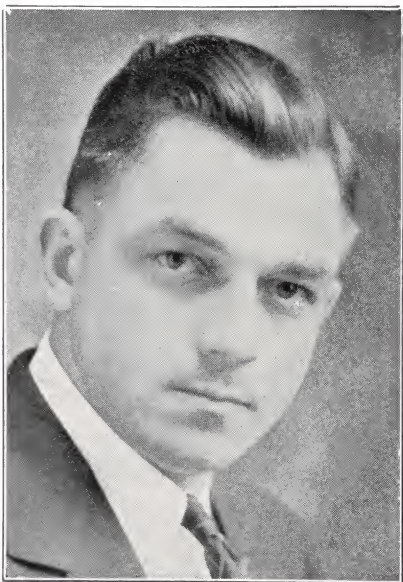
A.B. degree on him in 1921, and Bethany Biblical Seminary a B.D. in 1927; he has taken some graduate work from the University of Chicago. In 1907 he united with the Church of the Brethren at West Otter Creek in Southern Illinois. In 1919 he was called to the ministry in the First Church, Chicago, and was ordained there in 1923. He has contributed to the program of the church in various ways: as pastor of the Hastings Street mission, Chicago, 1921-1928; Detroit, Michigan, 1928-1931; and at Johnson City, Tennessee, 1931-1937;



MERLIN SHULL

as fieldman for Tennessee, 1931-1937; as minister to nonresident members of the brotherhood, 1938-1949; as supervisor of the shipping department of the Brethren Publishing House, since 1949.

W. RUSSELL SHULL, son of William and Clara Gibson Shull, was born near Girard, Illinois, May 7, 1899. He was baptized by Elder Javan Gibson in 1907. His first marriage, to Ruth Hanson, of Auburn, Indiana, took place on December 25, 1922; two daughters were born to them. His second mar-



W. RUSSELL SHULL

riage, to Eva Bell Henson, of Chicago, Illinois, occurred on April 22, 1944. His B.A. was received from Manchester College in 1923 and a B.D. from Bethany Biblical Seminary in 1929; further graduate work was done at the University of Chicago from 1933 to 1936. On March 9, 1919, he was elected to the ministry. From 1925 to 1929 he was pastor of the Lewiston and Winona churches, Minnesota. Since 1929 he has worked apart from the Church of the Brethren, and now is president of the National Forum Publishing Company.

WILLIAM H. SHULL was born near Virden, Illinois, on September 29, 1868, to George and Elizabeth Brubaker Shull. On December 2, 1891, he married Clara Gibson of Girard, Illinois. He united with the Church of the Brethren in August 1886. He had some special Bible study at Mount Morris College. From 1889 to 1932 he farmed in Macoupin County, Illinois. In August 1932 the Shulls moved to North Manchester, Indiana, and had charge of the boys' dormitory at Manchester College for six years. Brother Shull was elected to the office of deacon on November 16, 1895; to the ministry on August 17, 1901; to the eldership on February 16, 1907. Although he was never a full-time pastor, he served a number of Southern Illinois churches as elder: West Otter Creek and Bear Creek, 1907; Pleasant Hill, 1911-1912; Virden, 1910-1923; Astoria, 1924-1925; Wood-



WILLIAM H. SHULL
AND WIFE

land, 1923 and 1925; Girard, 1915-1932. He has filled mission appointments in Springfield, Litchfield, and Peoria, Illinois, and was secretary of the district mission board from 1904 to 1912. Six of the seven sons are ministers; two of the three daughters are ministers' wives; two sons are on the India mission field. Brother Shull died on December 16, 1949.

PHILIP SIDERS was a Pennsylvanian, born at Derry on November 25, 1831. He emigrated to Paris, Illinois, soon after becoming of age, and later moved into the La Place congregation. There he was called to the ministry, but was not active in the pulpit, because he was limited in his use of the English language. Loyal to the Brethren's doctrines, he was faithful in the duties assigned him. Later the family moved to Bement, and his membership was transferred to the Milmine church.

HARVEY CHARLES SKILES, son of David A. and Hettie V.



HARVEY SKILES
AND WIFE

Millyard Skiles, was born in Clinton County, Indiana, on March 25, 1905. He married Margaret Evelyn Dice of Big Springs, Nebraska, February 22, 1936; they have two sons and two daughters. Uniting with the Church of the Brethren on April 8, 1922, he was baptized by Elder C. C. Cripe. Until 1925 he was a farmer. He worked as a shop superintendent in Dayton, Ohio, for a time, then settled near Big Springs, Nebraska, in 1930, working as a salesman until 1937. The family moved to Arcanum, Ohio, then to Dayton, in 1940. Here he was employed by the

Holland Furnace Company as a heating engineer; in 1944 he was promoted to branch manager of a store in Cincinnati, Ohio, and in 1945 was transferred to Quincy, Illinois; he now lives at Champaign. In all of the above places he carried church responsibilities. Since coming to Southern Illinois he has been the chairman of the district Brethren service committee and the president of men's work. He assisted with arrangements for the cuts used in this history.

JAMES EDWIN SMALL was born in Smith County, Kansas, May 30, 1878, the son of Isaac and Anna Derby Small. He was baptized by Elder J. C. Wagner in November 1903. Alta E. Ransom of Oak Vale, Kansas, and he were married on January 1, 1900; three sons and three daughters were born to them. He spent one year at McPherson College and one year at Bethany Biblical Seminary. Elected to the ministry in September 1905, he was ordained to the eldership in 1910. These pastorates have been his fields of work: North Solomon, Kansas, 1905-1920; Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, 1921-1923; North Solomon, Kansas, 1924-1926; Greene, Iowa, 1927-1930; Panther Creek, Illinois, 1932-1947. He represented Northwestern Kansas on Standing Committee once.



JAMES E. SMALL
AND WIFE

JESSE A. SMELTZER was born to Amos and Eva E. Miller Smeltzer on April 28, 1887. He was baptized by Elder David Hollinger on March 28, 1899. Olive M. Heckman, of Girard, Illinois, became his wife on August 18, 1910; three sons were

born to them. He received an A.B. from Manchester College and a B.D. from Bethany Biblical Seminary. Elected to the ministry August 10, 1907, and ordained to the eldership December 4, 1916, he has served a number of churches as pastor: Douglas Park, Chicago, Illinois, 1916-1917; Macoupin Creek, Illinois, 1918-1921; and in California: Covina, 1922-1924; Inglewood, 1925-1927; Rio Linda, Sacramento, 1928-1931. In 1932 he moved to La Verne, and has been a member of the board of administration of Southern California and Arizona for five years, its chairman at present.

JOHN E. SMELTZER was born into the home of Moses Smeltzer of Hamilton County, Indiana, on December 15, 1888. He was baptized by his father in September 1901. He



JOHN E. SMELTZER
AND WIFE

married Maggie Ganger of Girard, Illinois, June 4, 1914; they have one daughter. After completing the two-year pastors' course at Manchester College, he took correspondence work from Bethany Biblical Seminary. Elected to the ministry in 1916, he was ordained to the eldership in 1918, and has ministered in these churches: Noblesville, Indiana, as a farmer preacher; Creek Chapel, as a student pastor, 1920-1927; Wabash, Indiana, approximately fifteen years; Seymour, Indiana, under the mission board of Southern Indiana; Canton,

Illinois, 1942-1949; Lena, Illinois, since 1949.

MOSES SMELTZER, son of John and Maria Gascho Smeltzer, was born in Hamilton County, Indiana, December 3, 1856. He married Anna Catharine Heiny of Noblesville, Indiana, on March 5, 1877; two sons and one daughter came into their home. John H. Caylor baptized him in July 1877. He was elected to the ministry January 25, 1890, and ordained an elder in 1891. His ministerial work was done in connection with other responsibilities: farmer, Noblesville, Indiana, 1890-1900; superintendent of the Brethren Home, Middletown, Indiana, 1900-1906; superintendent of the Old Folks' Home and Orphanage, Girard, Illinois, 1906-1914; superintendent of the Home, Fostoria, Ohio, 1914-1916; superintendent of Old Folks' Home, Empire, California, 1916-1919. As elder he served the Noblesville and Anderson churches in Indiana. He died in Hamilton County, Indiana, January 19, 1937.

HARLAN W. SMITH, son of William V. and Cora Idella Swab Smith, was born in Lee County, Illinois, December 22, 1893. In November 1912 he was baptized by D. Warren Shock. On July 25, 1917, he married Frances Sheller, of Eldora, Iowa; they have three sons and five daughters. An A.B. degree was received from Mount Morris College in 1917; at later dates he had one year of seminary work in Mount Morris Seminary, 1919-1920, and attended Bethany Biblical Seminary, 1927-1928. For two years, 1917-1919, he was the principal of the Raisin City, California, grammar school. Elected to the ministry in 1916, he was ordained to the eldership in 1923, and has been engaged in church work since that time: missionary in China, 1920-1937; pastor, Bethany church, Missouri, 1937-1940; missionary in China, 1940-1941; pastor, Greene, Iowa, 1941-1942; pastor, Cerro Gordo, Illinois, 1942-1946; pastor, Flora, Indiana, since 1947. Three times he has represented his district on the Standing Committee.

AARON B. SNYDER, son of Jacob and Susanna Helser Snyder, was born at Perry, Ohio, May 16, 1836. He married Mary E. Whitter of Thornville, Ohio, September 5, 1861; they had two sons and three daughters. After spending two terms at Ohio University, Athens, Ohio, he taught for two years, 1860-1862, in the country schools of Ohio. In 1864 he moved to Urbana, Illinois, and taught school in Mayview, near Urbana. There he was called to the ministry of the Church of the Brethren in 1868. A few years later he and J. H. Moore, then a young minister, were together advanced to the second degree of the ministry. Moving into Cerro Gordo, Illinois, about 1870, he went into the merchandise business but continued active in ministerial service and also became the first superintendent of the Sunday school in Cerro Gordo. He died October 25, 1885.

ELMER J. STAUFFER was the son of George and Kate Elizabeth Lilligh Stauffer. He was born April 16, 1888. On April 21, 1912, he married Edna Garst of Cabool, Missouri; one son and two daughters were born to them. His second marriage was to Ella Mae Hoots of Decatur, Illinois, June 10, 1920. Banking has been his vocation; he is the president of the First National Bank of Barry, Illinois. Uniting with the Church of the Brethren in the Mulberry Grove congregation about 1902, he was baptized by George Stauffer. In 1906 he was elected to the ministry. He was district treasurer for many years and Annual Meeting treasurer twenty years.

JESSE C. STONER was born in Montgomery County, Ohio, July 19, 1844, to Daniel and Esther Pfouts Stoner. He married Mary M. Bookwalter of near Dayton, Ohio, on November 15, 1866; two sons and eleven daughters were born to them. He was baptized by Elder Michael Forney in 1872. Until 1871 he farmed in Montgomery County, Ohio; then he moved near Palestine, Illinois, where he served in the

free ministry. Called to the ministry in 1883 and ordained to the eldership in 1893, he was elder of the La Motte Prairie church, 1893-1929; of the Walnut Grove church, 1898-1907; also of the Martins Creek church for a time. He seldom missed a district meeting or an Annual Conference; once he was on the Standing Committee. He died December 27, 1932.



JESSE C. STONER
AND WIFE

MENNO STAUFFER was born in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, August 16, 1829. He married Susan Mellinger on September 3, 1851; they had fourteen children. In 1852 they moved to Ohio, where he was elected to the ministry, then to Laketon, Indiana, where he did some preaching and evangelistic work, and in 1866 to Cerro Gordo, Illinois. He was the head carpenter in the building of the church at Oakley in 1867. Later he moved to Mansfield, Illinois. He did much preaching and successful evangelistic work in the district, and had oversight of a number of congregations. His wife died in 1906; he died at Paton, Iowa, on March 15, 1915.

HENRY W. STRICKLER, the sixth son in a family of fifteen children, was born April 25, 1836. In October 1877 he was called to the ministry in the Liberty church, Illinois, in the presence of Elders David Wolfe of Liberty and Joseph Hendricks of Cerro Gordo, Illinois. His was a long and eventful ministerial career in the Adams County churches—Liberty and Loraine; at the latter place he was largely instrumental in organizing the congregation and building the church house.

CASPEL STRONG was born near Homer, Illinois, December 9, 1839, and died June 18, 1921. His wife, Louisa Harmon Strong, was born near Homer on July 17, 1850, and died July 14, 1936. In their early married life they lived on a farm near Homer. In 1892 he purchased a store building in Homer and operated a general merchandise business. During this time they moved into town, building a home there. They adopted two children. Active in the church, they held their membership in early life in the Urbana church northwest of Mayview. After the Champaign church house was dedicated in 1914 they attended there, coming in from Homer. They were liberal contributors and left in their will an annuity bond of sixteen thousand dollars for mission work in our district.

DANIEL B. STURGIS was born near Maysville, Tennessee, June 17, 1811. He was taken by his parents to Dayton, Ohio, in 1815 and to Sangamon County, Illinois, in



DANIEL B. STURGIS

1821. He received such education as the frontier then afforded. After the death of his father, he worked on a farm to help support his widowed mother and his sisters. By the light from the old-fashioned fireplace he read and studied all the available books he could secure. Theological, historical, and medical books were his favorites. Coming in contact with Elder Isham Gibson, he was baptized by him in Morgan County, Illinois, in 1833. Called to

serve as a deacon for a short time, he was soon elected to

the ministry, and was ordained to the eldership on September 11, 1841, by Elders George Wolfe and Isham Gibson. He preached in Illinois, Iowa, Indiana, and other states, and was largely instrumental in establishing a more perfect union between the Far Western Brethren and the general brotherhood. Besides his ministerial work, in which he was a leader, he was a physician of considerable eminence. About the year 1850 he located in Bond County, Illinois, where he was influential in building up a strong congregation, and also aided in establishing several others. Moving to South Bend, Indiana, he established a good medical practice and also devoted much time to church work. His first wife was Susan Jackson; they had eleven children. His second marriage was to Rachel Smith on January 4, 1884. He died at Mulberry Grove, Illinois, March 16, 1897.

BENNETT T. STUTSMAN was born near Girard, Illinois, July 18, 1895, to Valentine and Tabitha Jane Gerlach Stutsman. He united with the church when thirteen years old. On August 14, 1924, he married Orpha Frantz of Cerro Gordo, Illinois; to them was born one son. An A.B. degree was received from Mount Morris College in 1922, and a B.D. from Bethany Biblical Seminary in 1929. On July 10, 1917, he was elected to the ministry in the Oakley church. As a pastor he ministered to these churches: Decatur, Illinois, 1924-1926; Batavia, Illinois, 1926-1928; Des Moines, Iowa, 1929-1931. He taught at Granville, Illinois, from 1922 to 1924, and in the Decatur, Illinois, high school from 1924 to 1926. He died January 6, 1931.



BENNETT T.
STUTSMAN

GEORGE OTIS STUTSMAN, son of Valentine and Tabitha Jane Gerlach Stutsman, was born June 3, 1885, near Girard, Illinois. He married Dortha May Snell of Virden, Illi-



G. O. STUTSMAN
AND WIFE

nois, on November 27, 1907; four sons and two daughters came into their home. He attended Bethany Biblical Seminary two years. Baptized by Elder W. H. Shull in October 1905, he was elected to the ministry October 18, 1909, and ordained to the eldership January 9, 1915. His contribution to the church has been made in various capacities: in the free ministry, Girard, Illinois, 1909-1911; pastor, Mount Ver-

non, Illinois, 1911-1912; pastor, Liberty, Illinois, 1913-1918; pastor, Burr Oak, Kansas, 1918-1919; in the free ministry, Oakley, Illinois, 1919-1924; pastor, Cerro Gordo, Illinois, 1924-1934; pastor, Greenville, Ohio, 1934-1939; pastor, Calvary, Los Angeles, California, 1939-1942; pastor, Empire, California, 1942-1946; pastor, Hermosa Beach, California, since 1946; elder of the Cerro Gordo and Decatur churches in Illinois, of the Greenville, Price's Creek, Union City and Pittsburg churches in Ohio, of the Calvary and Empire churches in California; Standing Committeeman seven times.

HENRY VERNER STUTSMAN, son of Henry and Susannah Frantz Stutsman, was born in Macoupin County, Illinois, May 2, 1889. He was baptized by Elder J. H. Neher on December 11, 1905. He married Mabel Heckman of Macon County, Illinois, November 17, 1909; to them were born one son and two daughters. Mabel Heckman Stutsman was the

daughter of Samuel A. Heckman of Macon County, Illinois, and Esther Ulery Heckman of Pyrmont, Indiana. She was born in Macon County, October 7, 1891. She was baptized by Elder J. W. Lear in 1904. She has rendered varied service to the church: deaconess in the Girard church, Illinois, since 1917; and president of women's work many years; district secretary-treasurer of Southern Illinois women's work, since 1936. Brother Stutsman has been a grocer-merchant in Girard for twenty-four years and has been in the insurance and building and loan business twenty years. He has given to the church various services: clerk of the Girard church, 1912-1949; deacon since August 7, 1917; chairman of the official board for the past ten years; trustee of Manchester College two years; member, board of trustees of the Home at Girard and manager for several years; member of the board of administration several terms; Annual Conference treasurer, 1946-1948; member National Council of Men's work, 1938-1947.



H. V. STUTSMAN
AND WIFE

AUSBY WARD SWINGER was born in Crawford County, Illinois, May 30, 1905, the son of Jesse and Minnie Colliflower Swinger. He was married to Mary Senger of Astoria, Illinois, June 2, 1935; they are the parents of one son and two daughters. Mary Senger Swinger was the daughter of Samuel J. C. and Ida Bucher Senger, born in Fulton County, Illinois, April 26, 1908. She was baptized by S. G. Bucher August 17, 1918. She has been district aid director since

1944. Ausby studied for a time at Bethany Biblical Seminary. In 1914 he was baptized



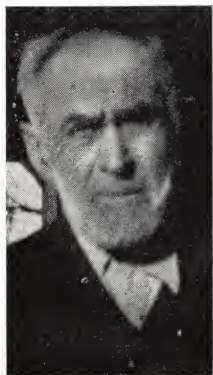
AUSBY W. SWINGER
AND WIFE

by Elder Jesse C. Stoner, elected to the office of deacon in 1925, elected to the ministry September 18, 1933, and ordained to the eldership October 6, 1939. He has served the church at La Motte Prairie, Illinois, 1914-1940, as layman, deacon, and minister; at Hurricane Creek, Illinois, 1940-1947, as pastor and elder; at Walnut Grove and Martins Creek in a joint pastorate, since 1947; at Romine, Pleasant Grove and Kaskaskia as

elder-in-charge; on Standing Committee once; as a member of the board of administration; as an evangelist in a number of churches.

JACOB SWINGER was born in Lebanon County, Pennsylvania, February 8, 1836, to Jacob and Anna Mariah Stager Swinger. He married Martha Hyre of Darke County, Ohio, in 1857; they had seven sons and five daughters. His second marriage was to Mollie Swank of Darke County, Ohio, in March 1896. His last marriage was to Rachel Caldwell of Warrensburg, Missouri, in June 1904. He farmed in Ohio until about 1865, then moved to Crawford County, Illinois, where he also farmed. He was elected to the ministry in the La Motte Prairie church, Illinois, in 1873 and there was ordained to the eldership in 1893. His work was largely in his home congregation, where he served as minister and elder.

JOHN WILLIAM SWITZER, son of John Henry and Rebecca Lambert Switzer, was born in Augusta County, Virginia, April 27, 1856. He married Mary Jane Tawzer, of Roanoke, Illinois, November 23, 1879; to them were born three daughters. Coming with his parents to Woodford County, Illinois, when a young man, he worked for a time for Elder James R. Gish, then farmed for the rest of his life near Roanoke. Baptized by Elder Caleb Brubaker about 1894, he was elected to the ministry in 1899 and ordained to the eldership in 1904. He was the elder of the Panther Creek church and also of the Oak Grove church, did some evangelistic work, and worked with Elder D. L. Miller in Mount Morris, Illinois, 1908-1909. He died in Woodford County, Illinois, October 2, 1942.



J. W. SWITZER



ALLEN TAYLOR

ALLEN TAYLOR was born in Perry County, Tennessee, March 25, 1829. He was baptized into the Church of the Brethren in 1860. Ellen L. Towner of Alton, Illinois, became his wife on November 14, 1850; they were the parents of one son and four daughters. He was self-educated, as he used his spare moments in study, had an excellent memory, and was well versed in the Scriptures. While farming in Fayette and Bond counties, Illinois, he did much evangelistic work in the district through the winter seasons. He was elected to

the ministry in the Hurricane Creek church in 1860. His wife died on September 22, 1896. His death occurred on June 9, 1905.

ROY B. TEACH was born in Clark County, Ohio, June 19, 1887, to David M. and Clara Belle Drescher Teach. On August 20, 1910, he married Alma Dell Barnhart of Donnelsville,



ROY B. TEACH
AND WIFE

Ohio; to them five daughters were born. Mrs. Teach died in January 1950. He was baptized by Elder Jacob Sandy on December 18, 1903. His education consisted of the normal course at Manchester College and study at Bethany Biblical Seminary, 1919-1924; from the latter school he received a B.S.L. degree. From 1908 to 1911 he taught school in Ohio; from 1911 to 1919 he farmed in Ohio. Elected a deacon on August 22, 1914, he became a minister on May 25, 1918, and

an elder in October 1924. A summary of his work in the church follows: fieldman, Bethany Biblical Seminary, summers, 1921-1924; pastor, Loon Creek, Indiana, 1924-1927; fieldman, McPherson College, 1927-1930; pastor, Loon Creek, 1930-1937; pastor, Brookville, Ohio, 1937-1947; pastor, Cerro Gordo, Illinois, since 1947; elder of a number of churches in Indiana and Ohio; evangelist in various congregations; Standing Committeeman twice.

LELAND GEORGE TEMPLETON was born in Finney County, Kansas, July 15, 1888, the son of George and Mary Reynolds Templeton. On October 25, 1908, he was baptized by D. J.

Blickenstaff in the Oakley church, Illinois. He was united in marriage to Viola Frantz of Cerro Gordo, Illinois, December 28, 1913. Besides earning



LELAND G. TEMPLETON
AND WIFE

an A.B. degree at Mount Morris College, he has attended McPherson College, the University of Wisconsin and Pittsburg Teachers' College. The Oakley congregation called him to the ministry on October 25, 1910; he was ordained to the eldership in the Southeastern District of Kansas. During the year 1913-1914 he was pastor at Colorado

Springs, Colorado, and at Larned, Kansas, 1922-1923; once he was a member of Standing Committee. After serving as a school superintendent in Kansas from 1924 to 1943, he has been a teacher in the high school at Decatur, Illinois, since 1943.

WILLIAM J. TINKLE, son of John William and Mary Elizabeth Miller Tinkle, was born in Grant County, Indiana, November 20, 1892. He married Lula Rench of Muncie, Indiana, on August 1, 1916; they have one son and one daughter. From Manchester College he received an A.B. in 1916; for one year, 1919-1920, he studied in Bethany Biblical Seminary; Ohio State University granted him an M.A. in 1927 and a Ph.D. in 1932. He has been a teacher most of his life. For three years, 1941-1944, he taught at La Verne College, and for ten years at Taylor University; at present he lives on a farm in Indiana and teaches part-time at Ball State Teachers College. He was baptized by W. L. Hatcher in March 1905, elected a minister in January 1914, and ordained an elder in December 1922. To the church he has

given service in various capacities: worker for the Mission Board, Little Walnut church, Indiana, 1917-1918; pastor, Bellefontaine, Ohio, 1918-1919; pastor, Portland, Indiana, 1920-1922; elder, Bethel Center, Indiana, 1933-1936; pastor and elder, Cerro Gordo, Illinois, 1939-1941.

DAVID TROXEL was born in Miami County, Ohio, March 1, 1829. In his youth he moved to Indiana. On April 4, 1850, he married Anna M. Zeck; six children were born to them. He was called to the ministry at Ash Ridge, Wisconsin, in 1854. Moving to Illinois in 1865, he located near Cerro Gordo, and in 1880 moved into the town. He was ordained to the eldership in 1876, and had charge of the Cerro Gordo congregation for a number of years, being also elder of a number of congregations in the district and a successful evangelist. His death occurred on August 18, 1908.

HENRY TROXEL was born in Darke County, Ohio, May 9, 1825. He married Elizabeth Bowman of Indiana; she died in 1850, leaving two sons. In 1850 he married Mary Shepard; to them were born eight sons and four daughters. The Troxel family moved to Richland County, Wisconsin, in 1854 and became charter members of the Ash Ridge church. Here he was elected to the ministry the same year. He preached in both English and German, emphasizing doctrine. Moving at a later date to Illinois, he served in the ministry in the La Place and Oakley congregations. In 1876 he moved to Texas, preaching in Texas, Indian Territory, and Oklahoma for about twenty-seven years. He died in August 1903.

JACOB TROXEL was born in Darke County, Ohio, March 14, 1823. Moving to Tippecanoe County, Indiana, he married Martha Jane Mahan; four sons and three daughters were born to them. Early in the sixties, he moved to Cerro Gordo, where he served in the ministry and was an effi-

cient carpenter. He had fifty-five years of active ministry, the larger part of it in Kansas, where he died November 23, 1905.

LEONARD F. TURNER, son of Nathan and Julia Richey Turner, was born March 24, 1872, in Rockingham County, Virginia. He married Alice Fawley on September 29, 1895; one son was born to them. He farmed in Virginia until 1904, when he moved to Piatt County, Illinois. He was baptized by George Fulk in 1896, elected deacon in 1897, called to the ministry in 1898, and ordained to the eldership in the La Place church, December 4, 1909. His services in the free ministry were given at Mountain Grove, Virginia, and La Place, Illinois. He died December 2, 1925.

DANIEL ULERY, the son of David and Elizabeth Ulery, was born December 21, 1852, in Carroll County, Indiana. Early in life he united with the Church of the Brethren in Clinton County, Indiana. The Romine church, Illinois, elected him deacon in 1877 and called him to the ministry in 1881. He moved to the Pleasant Grove church in 1902 and was ordained there. In 1874 he married Susan Ulery; five daughters were born to them. He died December 13, 1919.

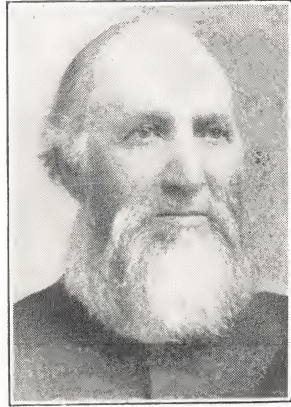
GEORGE ULERY was born near North Manchester, Indiana, April 11, 1852, to Jacob and Christina Heater Ulery. He came to Piatt County, Illinois, when about twenty-one years of age. On December 30, 1875, he was married to Hannah Kuns of near Milmine, Illinois; one son was born to them. Mrs. Ulery died on November 1, 1941. Brother Ulery, a faithful member of the Church of the Brethren, was elected to the office of deacon in the Milmine congregation in 1894. After the disorganization of this church his membership was held in the La Place church. He was generous in giving to the church and to missions. In November 1942 he purchased a beautiful home in La Place and gave it to the

congregation for a parsonage. A successful farmer, he made the General Mission Board of the Church of the Brethren the beneficiary of a splendid farm of one hundred fifty acres near Lintner, Illinois. He died on February 17, 1943.

ALBERT W. VANIMAN was born to Daniel and Maria Kimmel Vaniman on August 25, 1859, near Dayton, Ohio. When fourteen years old he united with the church in the Pleasant Hill congregation and was baptized by John Metzger. When Mount Morris College was opened in 1879, Albert was one of the first to enroll. While at college he met Alice Moore, to whom he was married on June 18, 1882. They together continued school work at McPherson College; then he took a course in medicine in the Kansas Medical College, graduating in 1896. For five years he served as business manager of McPherson College. On September 6, 1884, he was elected to the ministry in St. Louis, Missouri, and in 1899 was ordained an elder. He and his wife answered the call for the India mission field in 1892 and were accepted by the Conference in 1894. Then, because only three were to be sent, the Vanimans resigned in favor of Brother and Sister Wilbur Stover. In 1895 they went to Texas and spent three years there in mission work. In 1900, because of a pressing need for a missionary to Sweden, they went to that country and served for five years. Compelled to leave the field on account of failing health, they returned to America and made their home in southern California. He died March 14, 1908, at Raisin, California.

DANIEL VANIMAN, son of Jacob and Mary Bowman Vaniman, was born February 4, 1835. He taught public school. In 1858, on September 2, he married Maria Kimmel; to them one son was born. On June 2, 1860, his wife died. On February 28, 1861, he married Elizabeth Stutsman; to them were born five sons and one daughter. In 1864 he moved

near Virden, Illinois, and farmed. In 1859 he and his wife united with the Church of the Brethren. On April 8, 1865, he was elected to the ministry in the Macoupin Creek church; there, on September 15, 1876, he was ordained elder by David Frantz and John Metzger and was given charge of the church. He was a leader in the Sunday-school and missionary movements of the district; six times he represented the district on the Standing Committee, was moderator of Annual Meeting three times, and often served as one of the officers of district meetings. In 1889 he moved to McPherson, Kansas. A writer of ability, he was a regular contributor to the Brethren's publications, wrote many tracts, and framed the missionary plan adopted in 1884. The same year he was made a member of the General Mission Board, and was its president from 1885 to 1894. As the traveling secretary of the board, he spent many years raising a large endowment and raising the fifty thousand dollars necessary for the purchasing of the publishing interests of the church. He died at McPherson on November 15, 1903.



DANIEL VANIMAN

DAVID VANIMAN, son of Jacob and Mary Bowman Vaniman, was born in Montgomery County, Ohio, April 20, 1827. In 1845 he married Elizabeth Bowser; to them were born five sons and one daughter. After farming in Ohio he came with his family to Illinois in 1863. He helped build the Pleasant Hill church house, was a deacon in that church for many years, helped in the organization of the first dis-

trict mission board and was its foreman from 1885 to 1893. He died in 1897.

JACOB WAGGONER, son of David and Elizabeth Shively Waggoner, was born April 14, 1820, in Montgomery County, Ohio. He married Barbara Wolf on July 18, 1841, and they made their home in Clinton County, Indiana, where their six children were born. His second marriage was to Hannah Ulery Blickenstaff of Clinton County, in 1866. He was elected deacon at Rossville, Indiana, about 1850; called to the ministry in 1857; and ordained elder in 1867. His second wife died on September 10, 1871. He moved to La Place, Illinois, when he married Hannah Shively Wolf of that locality, on January 10, 1872. He became elder-in-charge of the Okaw (now La Place) congregation and was a strong defender of truth. He died at La Place on October 4, 1887.



DAVID T. WAGNER
AND WIFE

DAVID T. WAGNER, son of Daniel D. and Esther Wagner, was born near Pyrmont, Indiana, August 23, 1852. With his parents he came to Macon County, Illinois, in 1856. He was baptized by Daniel Neher in 1874. On November 1, 1881, Virginia Peffley became his wife. They moved near Beecher City, Illinois, in 1892, the year the Kaskaskia church house was built. There he was elected to the ministry in 1894 and served as their pastor for nearly a half century, dur-

ing which time he and Sister Wagner filled an important

place in the hearts of the people of the church and the entire community. Ordained to the eldership in 1900, he presided over this congregation until 1937. He was in charge of the Romine church for thirteen years. He served once on Standing Committee. In 1943 they moved to the Home at Girard, Illinois. He died November 14, 1947.

OSCAR WILLIAM WAGNER, son of William H. and Nannie Blocker Wagner, was born at Franklin Grove, Illinois, February 28, 1889. He was baptized in his youth by D. L. Miller. He was married to Ferne Morningstar, December 21, 1911; they had one son and one daughter. A B.S.L. degree was received in 1923 from Bethany Biblical Seminary. Elected to the ministry on December 1, 1896, he was ordained an elder in 1914. As pastor he served the Oak Grove church, Illinois, in 1924 and the Canton church, Illinois, during 1925 and 1926. Moving to Adrian, Missouri, he became the farmer-minister and elder of the church. Once he served on Standing Committee. He died at Adrian on March 14, 1947.



J. ELMER
WAGONER

J. ELMER WAGONER, son of Eli and Lydia Frantz Wagoner, was born near Hammond, Illinois, November 26, 1881, and grew up near La Place, Illinois. He united with the Church of the Brethren in 1900. For several years he taught in the public schools. On March 5, 1911, at Cerro Gordo, Illinois, he was married to Ellen Heckman; they had two daughters. In 1909 he was elected to the ministry at La Place, and was ordained an elder in 1919. In 1913 they moved to Mount Morris, Illinois, where he finished his college course, then entered Bethany Biblical Seminary. In

1919 he received both an A.B. and a B.D. degree. The summer of 1919 was spent in deputation work in southern Illinois. Early in 1920 the Wagoners went to the India mission field. After a year in language study at Bulsar, they were at Vyara a year and then returned to Bulsar, where he worked with the two hundred boys in the boarding and day school. While detained at home on furlough, he served as pastor, 1927-1929, at the Peebles and Marble Furnace churches in Ohio. Returning to India in 1929, with a group of helpers they toured the villages in evangelistic work. It made no difference where he was located, or to what work he was assigned—whether industrial, carpentry, schoolwork or district evangelism—he entered gladly into the task and worked to the limit of his strength. He loved the people with whom he worked and they knew it. While on a preaching tour among the villages, he suddenly became sick and died on November 21, 1930.

CHARLES H. WALTER was the son of Edward and Mary Baltz Walter; he was born in Botetourt County, Virginia, on December 23, 1862. The family moved to Augusta County, Virginia, where his boyhood days were spent. On September 10, 1882, he married Mary Lydia Phillips; seven children came into their home. Moving to Astoria, Illinois, in 1882, he was a farmer and a carpenter. On January 20, 1884, he united with the Church of the Brethren at Woodland. He was elected deacon on October 4, 1902, and a minister on October 7, 1903. During his twenty-four years in the ministry he held fifty-six series of meetings resulting in nearly three hundred conversions. He died January 11, 1928.

DAVID F. WARNER, son of Lorenzo and Celestia Warner, was born at Greenville, Ohio, August 8, 1875. His education was received at Ferris Institute, Mount Morris College,

and Bethany Biblical Seminary. He married Grace Gnagey. He was baptized at Mexico, Indiana, on June 4, 1899; elected to the ministry in the Sugar Ridge church, Michigan, February 20, 1909; and ordained at Virden, Illinois, November 16, 1915, when he was serving the first pastorate of that church. He began teaching in the public schools of Michigan when he was sixteen, spent ten years there and taught one year in the academy at Mount Morris. He has served as pastor in Indiana, in Brethren and community churches, and has been editing a religious column for three rural magazines for ten years.

ERVIN WEAVER was born near Bremen, Indiana, on March 26, 1888, the son of Benjamin and Sarah Weaver. He attended Manchester College and Bethany Bible Training School. He married Hattie Carbiener on October 3, 1911. In June 1899 he united with the Church of the Brethren at Bremen and was called to the ministry there in October 1908. As a pastor he served churches in Michigan, Wisconsin, Indiana, and Ohio, and the Oak Grove church in Southern Illinois, where he was ordained to the eldership.

CLINTON IRA WEBER, son of Thomas Martin and Lizzie Viola Johnson Weber, was born in Fulton County, Illinois, January 18, 1898. He married Margaret Alice Nelson of Warrensburg, Missouri, June 11, 1919; two sons were born to them. His training was received in Muskingum College, Bethany Biblical Seminary, and Butler University. He was baptized by J. J. Johnson on November 25, 1917, elected a minister on August 22, 1920, and ordained an elder in 1937. C. I. Weber has been pastor of these churches: Chippewa Valley, Wisconsin, 1922-1924; Kansas City, Missouri, 1924-1925; Allison Prairie, Illinois, 1925-1927; La Motte Prairie, Illinois, 1925-1929; White Cottage, Ohio, 1929-1934; Indianapolis, Indiana, 1936-1938; Hutchinson, Kansas, 1938-1945;

Dallas Center, Iowa, 1945-1949; Omaha, Nebraska, since 1949. He has moderated district conference and been a member of Standing Committee.

MARGARET ALICE WEBER was born in Johnson County, Missouri, on October 21, 1899, the daughter of Robert Mitchell and Mary Nellie Polk Nelson. Her marriage to Clinton Ira Weber took place on June 11, 1919. In November 1911 she was baptized by J. D. Mohler. She holds a diploma in sacred music from Bethany Biblical Seminary. In addition to sharing in the work of the parishes in which they have served, she has taught piano and voice, and has directed congregational, evangelistic and choir singing.

RUSSEL C. WENGER, son of John V. and Sarah Catharine Cloppert Wenger, was born in Miami County, Ohio, March 23, 1887. He was baptized by William Minnich in October 1906. Ada A. Klepinger became his wife on October 17, 1909; one son and three daughters were born to them. He received an A.B., 1918, from Manchester College, a B.D., 1919, from Bethany Biblical Seminary, and an A.M., 1920, from the University of Chicago, and has studied in Northwestern University and Ohio State University. From 1919 to 1942 he taught at Manchester College. From 1925 to 1930 he did extension institute teaching for Indiana University. Elected to the ministry on March 17, 1910, he was ordained to the eldership on December 7, 1922. These churches have had his pastoral services: Pleasant Dale, Indiana, 1921-1925, part-time; Pleasant View, Indiana, 1927-1932, part-time; North Winona, Indiana, 1934-1940, part-time; Springfield, Illinois, 1942-1945, full-time; Indianapolis, Indiana, 1945-1949, full-time; Grand Rapids, Michigan, since 1949.

HARRY ARTHUR WHISLER was born at Udell, Iowa, February 15, 1913, to Merton Albert and Sadie Price Whisler. He married Betty Miriam Long of Beaverton, Michigan, August

2, 1935; they are the parents of one son and two daughters. In 1935 he graduated from Manchester College with an A.B., then farmed near Beaverton and has taught in the Beaverton high school since 1944. He was baptized by Orlando Ogden on October 15, 1922; elected a minister, August 30, 1931; and ordained an elder in September 1940. He served the church at Midland, Michigan, as pastor from 1940 to 1941, and as elder from 1940 to 1942; from 1943 to 1947 he was elder at Beaverton. For the past nine years he has served as supply minister for several Michigan churches and has held district offices in Michigan.

MERTON ALBERT WHISLER was born at Unionville, Iowa, February 12, 1886, to Aaron S. and Mattie Ellen King Whisler. He married Sadie Price of Unionville on March 8, 1908. To them were born two sons and three daughters. His training consisted of a short course at Mount Morris College and some study at Bethany Biblical Seminary. Farming in Iowa, North Dakota and Illinois has been his vocation. He was baptized by Orlando Ogden on February 12, 1905, elected deacon on January 15, 1912, called to the ministry on October 9, 1920, and ordained to the eldership on October 21, 1928. In the free ministry he served the Fairview church, Iowa, from 1920 to 1926, and since then has been pastor and elder of the Oak Grove church, Illinois. For one year, 1931-1932, he was elder of the



MERTON A. WHISLER
AND WIFE

Panther Creek church. He has held a number of revival meetings, has been on Standing Committee twice, has served on various boards in the District of Southern Illinois, and now is the president of the board of administration.

SADIE PRICE WHISLER was born near Latimer, Pennsylvania, February 1, 1886, to Theodore B. and Sevilla Hohf (or Hoff) Price. On March 8, 1908, she became the wife of Merton Albert Whisler of Udell, Iowa. She was baptized by Elder J. H. Baker on February 16, 1898. After attending McPherson College and taking a teacher-training course in Iowa she taught in public schools from 1905 to 1908. Sharing in the pastoral work of her husband, on various occasions she has served as supply preacher. She also has been active in women's work in the district.

ALBERT LANTZ WHITMORE, son of Bruce C. and Margie Lantz Whitmore, was born on October 15, 1914, in Adams County, Pennsylvania. In 1926 he was baptized into the Church of the Brethren by his father. Dorothy Fry of Naperville, Illinois, became his wife on December 25, 1936. They have two sons and three daughters. He studied in Bethany Training School, Wheaton College, McPherson College, Western State Teachers' College, and Bethany Biblical Seminary. Called to the ministry in 1944, he was ordained to the eldership in the Woodland church, Astoria, Illinois, in 1949. He has served these churches: Ladoga, Indiana, summer 1942; Heisey, Kentucky, summer 1943; Silver Creek, Ohio, 1944-1946; Loon Creek, Indiana, 1946-1947; Woodland, 1947—.



ALBERT L.
WHITMORE

BRUCE C. WHITMORE was born in Frederick County, Maryland, September 21, 1884, the son of John H. and Sarah Smith Whitmore. He was baptized by Thomas J. Kolb on August 23, 1902. He married Margie Catharine Lantz of Thurmont, Maryland, April 11, 1911; they had one son and three daughters. After completing the commercial course at Maryland Collegiate Institute in 1905, he took the three-year Bible course. The Rocky Ridge church, Maryland, called him to the ministry in 1905; he was ordained to the eldership in 1924. From 1920 to 1925 he was pastor at Cerro Gordo, Illinois; from 1926 to 1927 at Sebring and Arcadia, Florida; from 1927 to 1932 at Dixon, Illinois. His home is in Wheaton, Illinois.

JOHN B. WIEAND, son of Theodore Calvin and Ella M. Beashore Wieand, was born in Wayne County, Ohio, September 27, 1886. He married Myrtle Viola Burkhart of Cando, North Dakota, on October 4, 1913. Two foster sons and a foster daughter were reared in their home. He attended Mount Morris College, and holds an A.B. from Findlay College and a B.D. from Bethany Biblical Seminary. He was baptized by Elder A. I. Heestand in August 1898. His election to the ministry occurred on September 13, 1913, and his ordination to the eldership in May 1925. He has worked in various capacities: farmer-preacher at Chippewa and East Chippewa, Ohio, 1913-1922; pastor, Oak Grove, Ohio, 1922-1925; pastor, Bellefontaine, Ohio, 1927-



JOHN B. WIEAND
AND WIFE

1933; pastor, Bow Valley, Alberta, 1933-1936; district fieldman and pastor, Decatur, Illinois, 1936-1946; district executive secretary and pastor, Peru, Indiana, 1946-1948; pastor, Cedar Rapids, Iowa, since 1948; Standing Committeeman once; and evangelist.

VIOLA BURKHART WIEAND was born in Elkhart County, Indiana, on February 4, 1891. In March 1900 she was baptized. A graduate in sacred music at Bethany Biblical Seminary, she has taught in district Bible school in Decatur, was director of the district intermediate camp there, has filled the pulpit many times in the absence of her husband, John B. Wieand, and has been the song leader in a number of evangelistic meetings.

JAMES WIRT, JR., son of James and Lydia Studebaker Wirt, was born in Randolph County, Indiana, July 23, 1849. In his youth he was baptized by John Crist. He married Hannah Gibson Vaniman on June 4, 1878; two sons and three daughters were born to them. After being a deacon for three years he was called to the ministry in 1892. He was a farmer-minister, working mainly in the Pleasant Hill church, of which he was clerk for twenty years. He died June 25, 1938.

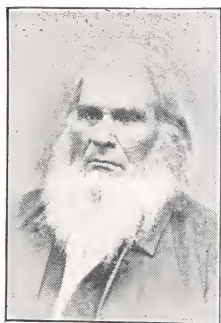
JOHN WISE was born in Washington County, Pennsylvania, May 18, 1822. It is a matter of interest that his grandfather had come from Schwarzenau, Germany. At the age of seventeen he began teaching school, and he taught thirty-two terms. On February 27, 1847, he married Nancy Grable; six sons and four daughters were born to them. He united with the Church of the Brethren at the age of twenty in the Ten Mile congregation in Pennsylvania. On October 18, 1843, he was called to the ministry. On October 18, 1854, he was ordained to the eldership. In December 1867 he moved to Iowa. Other states in which he ministered were

Illinois, Texas, and Kansas. He moved to the Mulberry Grove church, Illinois, about 1879; there he was elder-in-charge for three years. He held many offices in the church; moderator of district meeting twice; Standing Committeeman twenty-seven times; moderator of Annual Conference once and reader fifteen times. As a pulpit orator he had few equals. A perfect voice, excellent language and a remarkable command of words made it a pleasure to listen to him. It can well be said that he was a leader of the leaders in the church. The larger part of his work was done in the church at Conway Springs, Kansas. A few years before the close of his life he lost his eyesight. He died on June 26, 1909.

DAVID WOLFE, son of George and Anna Hunsaker Wolfe, was born in Union County, Illinois, December 15, 1819. He was united in marriage to Parmelia Ann Frances McKnight on April 15, 1841; one son and two daughters were born to them. His father baptized him about the year 1835. Elected a minister at Liberty, Illinois, in 1861, he was ordained an elder by Elders Isham Gibson and John Fitz in 1864. He was elder of several congregations, did much organizational and committee work in the district, served on evangelistic committees, and represented the district on Standing Committee three times. He labored as a local minister, together with his father, in the Liberty church (then Mill Creek) until the time of his death. Not only was he an extensive farmer for that period, but he also served two terms in the Illinois legislature. He died in Adams County, Illinois, on June 1, 1879.

GEORGE WOLFE was born in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, April 25, 1780, the son of Elder George Wolfe. In 1787 the Wolfe family moved to Fayette County, Pennsylvania, and located on a farm about ten miles from Union-

town. In 1800 the family sailed down the Ohio River on a flatboat of their own construction and settled in Muhlenberg County, Kentucky, where there was a church colony in



GEORGE WOLFE

the wilderness. Here, on March 3, 1803, George and Anna Hunsacker were married; to them were born six sons and two daughters. In 1808 George and his brother Jacob migrated to what was later Union County, Illinois. At that time there were no settlements closer than Cape Girardeau County, Missouri; in fact, white people were very sparsely scattered through all parts of Illinois. The following year the father came from Kentucky to visit his sons and made a preaching tour of southern Illinois and eastern Missouri. All the Mississippi Valley was repeatedly shaken by earthquakes in the year 1811, and as a result a great revival wave passed over the settlements. When the Methodists held a revival in Union County, George was converted and was elected leader of a group of probationers. Not satisfied with the faith he was professing, and remembering the rearing of his Christian home, he asked the class to send for one of the Brethren back in Kentucky to come and preach for them. This messenger met Brother John Hendricks on his way to Union County, who, after he arrived, held meetings and baptized George and all his class. George was the first of the group to receive baptism and perhaps was the first person received into the membership of the Church of the Brethren in Illinois. The same year George was called to the ministry and in the following year, 1813, Elders John Hochstettler and Peter Hahn ordained him. For nineteen years he worked in Union and adjoining counties. As early as 1829 George made a tour

northward as far as Adams County; in this year he solemnized the first marriage and preached the first sermon in Liberty Township. In 1831 his family, with a number of other families, settled in Adams County, and a congregation was organized there. That autumn the first love feast was held. From this center he visited and preached in Morgan, Sangamon and Macoupin counties for thirty-five years. The sermons were sometimes two hours long. People listened. One who often heard him, said, "His manner of preaching, like his presence, was commanding, yet as gentle as a child. His language was simple, easily understood by a child and yet a philosopher would listen to it spellbound. His great theme was the love of God." Near the close of life he spoke in this manner of his work: "I have preached the gospel over fifty years. I labored much when Illinois was a wilderness. My work is now nearly done. I have, like Paul, finished my course, and if when eternity shall dawn and I gaze with enraptured vision on the mighty hosts of the redeemed there shall be in that mighty throng one soul numbered with the blest because I worked and prayed and preached I shall be fully repaid for my labors here." He died at Liberty on November 16, 1865.

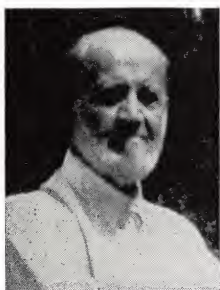
FRED G. WOLFE was born in Adams County, Illinois, December 21, 1875, the son of Jacob B. Wolfe and the great-grandson of George Wolfe, Jr. His mother was Emily Grubb of Adams County, Illinois. He married Nita W. Williams of Quincy, Illinois, on June 18, 1913. He was baptized by Brother Moore, and is now an elder in the Presbyterian Church. An attorney, he



FRED WOLFE

has served as county, appellate and circuit judge. He provided some of the information about the Wolfe family found in this history.

JACOB WYNE was born in Rockingham County, Virginia, June 5, 1861, to John and Elizabeth Zigler Wyne. His marriage to Julia A. Shively of La Place, Illinois, took place



JACOB WYNE

on December 29, 1887. To them were born three sons and one daughter. He was baptized by Elder Jacob Waggoner. With the exception of five and one-half years spent in New Mexico, he farmed in Piatt County, Illinois, until he retired. Elected to the ministry in the La Place congregation in 1894 he was ordained to the eldership at the same place. A farmer-minister at La Place, he served as a member of the district mission board and the board of district trustees. His late home was at Azusa, California, where he died August 23, 1949.

JOHN WYNE, son of Samuel Wyne, was born in Rockingham County, Virginia, on October 22, 1818. He married Elizabeth Zigler on November 2, 1843. Five sons and four daughters were born to them. He farmed in Virginia until 1867, then came to Piatt County, Illinois, where he also farmed. He had served as a minister and elder in Virginia; after locating in Illinois he was a minister in the Milmine congregation. He died in Piatt County, Illinois, September 13, 1874.

CHARLES M. YEAROUT was born in Floyd County, Virginia, March 19, 1857, the son of James A. and Lydia Bowman Yearout. He married Ellen Clark of Madison, Kansas,

on October 10, 1882; three sons were born to them. A second marriage was to Lillie Benmary of Independence, Kansas. He went to Kansas with his parents in 1869, traveling in a covered wagon. At about the age of twenty years he was called to the ministry and served as pastor in these churches: Scott Valley, Verdigris, and Morrill, Kansas; Cedar Rapids, Iowa; Moscow, Idaho; Chico, California; Mulberry Grove, Illinois. A number of times he represented his district on Standing Committee. He knew his Bible well, did much evangelistic work, and is said to have preached in forty-two of the states. He died in California, January 5, 1932.

AMOS YORDY, the son of Christian and Salome Slagel Yordy, was born near Roanoke, Illinois, June 10, 1884. He was received into the Church of the Brethren during the pastorate of Elder S. A. Honberger. His marriage to Jessie Switzer of Roanoke, Illinois, took place on July 21, 1912; two sons and four daughters were born to them. For two years he attended Mount Morris College. He was elected to the ministry in the Panther Creek church at Roanoke on May 12, 1907, and was ordained to the eldership in 1928. As a farmer-minister he gave his service to the Panther Creek church.

Appendix

- A. District Meetings
- B. Ministerial Meetings
- C. District Trustees
- D. Missionary Committee (Mission Board)
- E. Welfare Board; Board of Religious Education After 1931
- F. Board of Administration
- G. Ministerial Committee
- H. Ministerial Secretary
 - I. Home Committee
 - J. Brethren Service Committee
- K. Director of Temperance
- L. Director of Children's Work
- M. Director of Intermediate Work
- N. Men's Work Officers
- O. Sisters' Aid Society
- P. Women's Work Officers
- Q. BYPD (CBYF) Officers
- R. Music Director
- S. Historical Committee

A. DISTRICT MEETINGS

<i>Year</i>	<i>Place</i>	<i>Moderator</i>	<i>Reader</i>	<i>Clerk</i>	<i>Delegates to Standing Committee</i>
1863	Hurricane Creek	D. B. Sturgis	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
1864	Otter Creek	John Metzger	Unknown	John Wolfe	Unknown
1865	Hurricane Creek	John Metzger	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
1866	Otter Creek	John Metzger	Unknown	D. Vaniman	John Metzger
1867	Otter Creek	John Metzger	D. B. Sturgis	D. Vaniman	Isham Gibson John Metzger
1868	Cerro Gordo	John Metzger	Unknown	D. Vaniman	James R. Gish
1869	Astoria	John Metzger	Unknown	D. Vaniman	John Metzger
1870	Mill Creek	John Metzger	Unknown	D. Vaniman	John Metzger
1871	Panther Creek	John Metzger	Unknown	D. Vaniman	David Wolfe John Metzger
1872	Otter Creek	John Metzger	Unknown	D. Vaniman	James R. Gish
1873	Cerro Gordo	John Metzger	J. H. Moore	Joseph Hendricks	John Metzger James R. Gish
1874	Hurricane Creek	John Metzger	Joseph Hendricks	D. Vaniman	David Wolfe James R. Gish
1875	Mill Creek	John Metzger	Jacob Wagoner	D. Vaniman	John Metzger John Metzger
1876	Milmine	John Metzger	A. S. Leer	D. Vaniman	James R. Gish
1877	Coal Creek	John Metzger	Joseph Hendricks	D. Vaniman	James R. Gish
1878	Pleasant Hill	John Metzger	Joseph Hendricks	D. Vaniman	James R. Gish David Wolfe
1879	Hudson	John Wise	Joseph Hendricks	D. Vaniman	Joseph Hendricks
1880	Big Creek	John Wise	A. S. Leer	D. Vaniman	James R. Gish
1881	Astoria	D. Vaniman	A. S. Leer T. D. Lyon	D. Vaniman B. B. Whitmer	John Wise D. Vaniman
1882	Okaw	D. Vaniman	John Wise	B. B. Whitmer	James R. Gish John Wise D. Vaniman

<i>Year</i>	<i>Place</i>	<i>Moderator</i>	<i>Reader</i>	<i>Clerk</i>	<i>Delegates to Standing Committee</i>
1883	Panther Creek	D. Vaniman	B. B. Whitmer	T. D. Lyon	D. Vaniman
1884	Woodland	D. Vaniman	G. W. Cripe	M. J. McClure	M. J. McClure
1885	Mulberry Grove	M. J. McClure	D. B. Gibson	D. Vaniman	D. Vaniman
1886	Pleasant Hill	M. J. McClure	D. B. Gibson	D. Vaniman	James R. Gish James R. Gish
1887	Cerro Gordo	D. Vaniman	G. W. Cripe	M. J. McClure	M. J. McClure
1888	Okaw	D. B. Gibson	D. B. Gibson	M. J. McClure	T. D. Lyon
1889	Panther Creek	D. B. Gibson	Conrad Fitz	G. W. Gibson	D. B. Gibson G. W. Cripe
1890	West Otter Creek	M. J. McClure	Conrad Fitz	G. W. Gibson	S. Bucklew M. J. McClure
1891	Big Creek	M. J. McClure	J. Harshbarger	G. Nevinger	T. D. Lyon
1892	Coal Creek	D. B. Gibson	Conrad Fitz	Charles Gibson	David Troxel
1893	La Motte Prairie	S. Bucklew	Conrad Fitz	G. Nevinger	J. Harshbarger
1894	Macoupin Creek	S. Bucklew	Conrad Fitz	M. J. McClure	S. Bucklew
1895	Astoria	D. B. Gibson	M. Flory	Charles Gibson	M. J. McClure
1896	Blue Ridge	Conrad Fitz	M. Flory	M. J. McClure	D. B. Gibson
1897	Okaw	S. Bucklew	Conrad Fitz	G. Nevinger	Conrad Fitz
1898	Pleasant Hill	M. J. McClure	Conrad Fitz	G. Nevinger	S. Bucklew M. Flory
1899	La Motte Prairie	S. Bucklew	M. Flory	S. W. Garber	M. J. McClure
1900	Oakley	John Arnold	M. Flory	S. S. Fouts	J. H. Baker
1901	Salem	M. Flory	S. W. Garber	G. W. Gibson	John Arnold J. H. Baker
1902	Woodland	S. Bucklew	Jacob Wyne	S. W. Garber	S. W. Garber J. C. Stoner
1903	Hurricane Creek	M. Flory	S. W. Garber	D. J. Blickenstaff	S. Bucklew J. H. Baker
1904	Panther Creek	J. H. Baker	S. W. Garber	J. M. Masterson	S. W. Garber D. J. Blickenstaff

<i>Year</i>	<i>Place</i>	<i>Moderator</i>	<i>Reader</i>	<i>Clerk</i>	<i>Delegates to Standing Committee</i>
1905	Cerro Gordo	M. Flory	S. W. Garber	D. J. Blickenstaff	S. Bucklew
1906	Big Creek	S. Buckalew	J. H. Neher	J. W. Lear	D. J. Blickenstaff
1907	Astoria	J. H. Neher	D. J. Blickenstaff	J. W. Lear	J. W. Harshbarger
1908	Okaw	J. W. Lear	D. J. Blickenstaff	I. D. Heckman	J. H. Baker
1909	Macoupin Creek	J. W. Lear	D. J. Blickenstaff	George W. Miller	J. W. Lear
1910	Cerro Gordo	J. W. Harshbarger	D. J. Blickenstaff	I. D. Heckman	Henry Lilligh
1911	Pleasant Hill, Girard	J. W. Lear	D. J. Blickenstaff	I. D. Heckman	J. W. Lear
1912	Oakley	J. W. Lear	D. J. Blickenstaff	I. D. Heckman	George W. Miller
1913	Hurricane Creek	J. W. Lear	D. J. Blickenstaff	J. M. Masterson	W. T. Heckman
1914	Woodland	D. J. Blickenstaff	W. T. Heckman	George W. Miller	S. W. Garber
1915	Viriden	J. W. Lear	W. T. Heckman	George W. Miller	D. J. Blickenstaff
1916	Cerro Gordo	D. J. Blickenstaff	W. T. Heckman	George W. Miller	W. T. Heckman
1917	Astoria	J. W. Lear	G. O. Stutsman	N. H. Miller	J. W. Lear
1918	Okaw	W. T. Heckman	I. D. Heckman	J. A. Smeltzer	W. T. Heckman
1919	Decatur	D. J. Blickenstaff	S. S. Blough	George W. Miller	George W. Miller
1920	Girard	S. S. Blough	J. A. Smeltzer	G. O. Stutsman	I. D. Heckman
1921	Champaign	I. D. Heckman	J. A. Smeltzer	D. W. Shock	J. A. Smeltzer
1922	Woodland	W. T. Heckman	H. B. Martin	N. H. Miller	W. T. Heckman
1923	Oakley	I. D. Heckman	H. B. Martin	N. H. Miller	George W. Miller
1924	Viriden	W. T. Heckman	G. O. Stutsman	N. H. Miller	W. T. Heckman
1925	Cerro Gordo	I. D. Heckman	G. O. Stutsman	N. H. Miller	G. O. Stutsman
1926	Panther Creek	George W. Miller	E. F. Caslow	N. H. Miller	N. H. Miller
1927	Canton	E. F. Caslow	I. D. Heckman	N. H. Miller	E. F. Caslow
1928	Okaw	W. T. Heckman	I. D. Heckman	N. H. Miller	George W. Miller
1929	Girard	I. D. Heckman	E. F. Caslow	N. H. Miller	G. O. Stutsman
1930	Astoria	E. F. Caslow	W. T. Heckman	N. H. Miller	D. J. Blickenstaff
1931	Cerro Gordo	I. D. Heckman	George W. Miller	N. H. Miller	E. F. Caslow
1932	Woodland	W. T. Heckman	E. F. Caslow	N. H. Miller	A. R. Coffman
1933	Oakley	W. W. Peters	G. O. Stutsman	N. H. Miller	W. W. Peters
1934	Viriden	W. T. Heckman	E. F. Caslow	J. J. Johnson	I. D. Heckman
1935	Canton	N. H. Miller	E. F. Caslow	I. D. Heckman	Dolar C. Ritchey

<i>Year</i>	<i>Place</i>	<i>Moderator</i>	<i>Reader</i>	<i>Clerk</i>	<i>Delegates to Standing Committee</i>
1936	Okaw	W. W. Peters	Dolar C. Ritchey	I. D. Heckman	M. A. Whisler
1937	Liberty	W. T. Heckman	Merlin E. Garber	Ralph W. Johnson	Walter Coffman
1938	Panther Creek jointly with				
	Oak Grove	Dolar C. Ritchey	E. F. Caslow	Ralph W. Johnson	Lester Fike
1939	Decatun	I. D. Heckman	Dolar C. Ritchey	Ralph W. Johnson	W. T. Heckman
1940	Girard	Lester E. Fike	Dolar C. Ritchey	Galen T. Lehman	Oliver Dearing
1941	Astoria	E. F. Caslow	Dolar C. Ritchey	Galen T. Lehman	Merlin Garber
1942	Cerro Gordo	Lester E. Fike	Dolar C. Ritchey	I. C. Paul	Lester E. Fike
1943	Hurricane Creek	Merlin Garber	Oliver Dearing	Dow A. Ridgely	Oliver Dearing
1944	Woodland	R. C. Wenger	L. M. Baldwin	Dow A. Ridgely	Leland Nelson
					Ausby W. Swinger
1945	Oakley	Leland Nelson	J. E. Smeltzer	Dow A. Ridgely	David Fouts
					M. A. Whisler
1946	Viriden	Dewey B. Cave	Leland Nelson	Dow A. Ridgely	Merlin Garber
					Harold Miller
1947	Springfield	Ira T. Hiatt	Lorrel Eikenberry	Dow A. Ridgely	G. G. Canfield
					Leland Emrick
1948	Canton	W. T. Heckman	Lorrel Eikenberry	Dow A. Ridgely	Roy B. Teach
					E. R. Henricks
1949	La Place	Roy B. Teach	Lorrel Eikenberry	Dow A. Ridgely	Leland B. Emrick
					Ausby W. Swinger

B. MINISTERIAL MEETINGS

<i>Time</i>	<i>Church</i>	<i>Moderator</i>	<i>Secretary</i>
1891—Dec. 16, 17	Cerro Gordo	D. B. Gibson	Charles C. Gibson
1892—Dec. 20, 21	Pleasant Hill	D. B. Gibson	C. C. Fitz
1894—Feb. 13, 14	Cerro Gordo	Charles C. Gibson	Thomas Kaiser
1894—Nov. 28, 29	Woodland	Charles C. Gibson	Amos Nickey
1895—Dec. 26, 27	Okaw	Amos Nickey	A. L. Bingaman
1896—Oct. 15, 16	Mansfield	J. H. Brubaker	Jacob Wine
1897—Oct. 7, 8	La Place	I. W. Brubaker	C. Bucher
1898—Oct. 27	Pleasant Hill	Jacob Wine	G. W. Gibson
1899—Oct. 12	La Motte Prairie	I. J. Harshbarger	R. E. Burger
1900—Oct. 4	Oakley	I. E. Brubaker	J. W. Lear
1901—Oct. 24	Salem	D. J. Blickenstaff	S. G. Nickey
1902—Oct. 16	Woodland	J. W. Lear	Walter J. Barnhart
1903—Oct. 1	Hurricane Creek	I. J. Harshbarger	W. T. Heckman
1904—Oct. 19, 20	Panther Creek	George W. Miller	S. G. Bucher
1905—Oct. 11, 12	Cerro Gordo	W. I. Buckingham	W. D. Neher
1906—Sept. 27	Walnut Grove	J. W. Lear	I. J. Harshbarger
1907—Oct. 16, 17	Astoria	S. G. Nickey	I. D. Heckman
1908—Oct. 8	Okaw	E. H. Brubaker	Frank Gibson
1909—Oct. 25	Macoupin Creek		
1910—Oct. 10	Cerro Gordo		
1911—Oct. 2	Girard		
1912—Aug. 26	Oakley		
1913—Aug. 25	Hurricane Creek		
1914—Oct. 5	Woodland		
1915—Oct. 6	Viriden		
1916—Oct. 4	Cerro Gordo		
1917—Oct. 1	Astoria		
1918—Oct. 7	La Place		
1919—Oct. 6	Decatur		
1920—Oct. 6	Girard		
1921—Oct. 5	Champaign		
1922—Oct. 2	Woodland		
1923—Oct. 3	Oakley		
1924—Oct. 2	Viriden		
1925—Sept. 30	Cerro Gordo		
1926—Oct. 6	Panther Creek		
1927—Sept. 8	Canton		
1928—Sept. 1	La Place		
1929—Aug. 31	Girard		
1930—Aug. 28	Astoria		
1931—Sept. 5	Cerro Gordo		
1932—Aug. 27	Woodland		
1933—Aug. 26	Oakley		
1934—Aug. 25	Viriden		
1935—Aug. 24	Canton		
1936—Aug. 26	La Place		
1937—Aug. 29	Liberty		
1938—Aug. 27	Panther Creek		

1939—Aug. 26	Decatur
1940—Aug. 24	Girard
1941—Aug. 23	Astoria
1942—Aug. 27	Cerro Gordo
1943—Aug. 28	Hurricane Creek
1944—Aug. 26	Woodland
1945—Aug. 25	Oakley
1946—Aug. 23	Virden
1947—Aug. 23	Springfield

C. DISTRICT TRUSTEES

1902	M. J. McClure	D. J. Blickenstaff	D. B. Vaniman		
	<i>Committee increased to five members</i>				
1903	D. C. Vaniman	D. J. Blickenstaff	John Wine	David Hershberger	J. G. Fulk
1904	D. J. Blickenstaff	S. S. Brubaker	Philip A. Shearer	J. Hershberger	D. C. Vaniman
	<i>Chairman</i>				
1905	S. S. Brubaker	A. B. Gibbel	Philip A. Shearer	J. Hershberger	D. C. Vaniman
1906	D. C. Vaniman	S. S. Brubaker	Philip A. Shearer	J. Hershberger	A. B. Gibbel
1907	D. C. Vaniman	S. S. Brubaker	Philip A. Shearer	J. Hershberger	A. B. Gibbel
1908	D. C. Vaniman	S. S. Brubaker	Philip A. Shearer	Jacob Hershberger	A. B. Gibbel
1909	D. C. Vaniman	S. S. Brubaker	Philip A. Shearer	Jacob Hershberger	A. B. Gibbel
1910	D. C. Vaniman	S. S. Brubaker	Philip A. Shearer	Jacob Hershberger	A. B. Gibbel
1911	D. C. Vaniman	S. S. Brubaker	Philip A. Shearer	Jacob Hershberger	A. B. Gibbel
1912	D. C. Vaniman	S. S. Brubaker	Philip A. Shearer	Jacob Hershberger	A. B. Gibbel
1913	D. C. Vaniman	S. S. Brubaker	Philip A. Shearer	J. C. Wine	A. B. Gibbel
1914	D. C. Vaniman	S. S. Brubaker	Philip A. Shearer	J. C. Wine	A. B. Gibbel
1915	D. C. Vaniman	S. S. Brubaker	Philip A. Shearer	D. L. Heckman	A. B. Gibbel
1916	D. C. Vaniman	S. S. Brubaker	Philip A. Shearer	D. L. Heckman	A. B. Gibbel

Treasurer

Secretary

Chairman

Secretary

1917	D. C. Vaniman	S. S. Brubaker	Philip A. Shearer	D. L. Heckman	A. B. Gibbel
1918	A. B. Gibbel	S. S. Brubaker	Philip A. Shearer	D. L. Heckman	D. C. Vaniman
1919	A. B. Gibbel	S. S. Brubaker	Philip A. Shearer	D. L. Heckman	Jacob Wyne
1920	A. B. Gibbel	S. S. Brubaker	Philip A. Shearer	D. L. Heckman	Jacob Wyne
1921	A. B. Gibbel	S. S. Brubaker	Philip A. Shearer	D. L. Heckman	Jacob Wyne
1922	A. B. Gibbel	S. S. Brubaker	Philip A. Shearer	D. L. Heckman	Jacob Wyne
1923	A. B. Gibbel	S. S. Brubaker	Philip A. Shearer	D. L. Heckman	Jacob Wyne
1924	A. B. Gibbel	S. S. Brubaker	Philip A. Shearer	Jacob Wyne	D. L. Heckman
1925	A. B. Gibbel	S. S. Brubaker	Philip A. Shearer	Jacob Wyne	D. L. Heckman
1926	A. B. Gibbel	S. S. Brubaker	Philip A. Shearer	Jacob Wyne	D. L. Heckman
1927	A. B. Gibbel	S. S. Brubaker	Philip A. Shearer	Jacob Wyne	D. L. Heckman
1928	A. B. Gibbel	S. S. Brubaker	Philip A. Shearer	Jacob Wyne	D. L. Heckman
1929	A. B. Gibbel	H. V. Stutsman	S. J. Snell	Jacob Wyne	S. S. Brubaker
1930	A. B. Gibbel	H. V. Stutsman	S. J. Snell	Jacob Wyne	S. S. Brubaker
1931	A. B. Gibbel	H. V. Stutsman	S. J. Snell	Jacob Wyne	J. E. McCauley
1932	A. B. Gibbel	H. V. Stutsman	S. J. Snell	Jacob Wyne	Martin Brubaker
1933	A. B. Gibbel	H. V. Stutsman	S. J. Snell	D. J. Blickenstaff	Martin Brubaker
1934	A. B. Gibbel	H. V. Stutsman	S. J. Snell	D. J. Blickenstaff	Martin Brubaker
1935	A. B. Gibbel	H. V. Stutsman	S. J. Snell	D. J. Blickenstaff	Martin Brubaker
1936	A. B. Gibbel	S. J. Snell	H. V. Stutsman	D. J. Blickenstaff	Lester Beery

Foreman

Secretary

Treasurer

1910	D. J. Blickenstaff	W. H. Shull	George Sensenbaugh	J. J. Scrogum	H. D. Gruber
1911	D. J. Blickenstaff	W. H. Shull	George Sensenbaugh	J. J. Scrogum	H. D. Gruber
1912	D. J. Blickenstaff	E. E. Brubaker	George Sensenbaugh	J. J. Scrogum	H. D. Gruber
1913	D. J. Blickenstaff	E. E. Brubaker	George Sensenbaugh	George W. Miller	H. D. Gruber
1914	George W. Miller	E. E. Brubaker	George Sensenbaugh	D. J. Blickenstaff	H. D. Gruber
1915	D. J. Blickenstaff	E. E. Brubaker	George Sensenbaugh	George W. Miller	H. D. Gruber
1916	D. J. Blickenstaff	E. E. Brubaker	George Sensenbaugh	George W. Miller	H. D. Gruber
1917	George W. Miller	E. E. Brubaker	George Sensenbaugh	W. T. Heckman	H. D. Gruber
1918	George W. Miller	E. E. Brubaker	George Sensenbaugh	W. T. Heckman	H. D. Gruber
1919	George W. Miller	E. E. Brubaker	George Sensenbaugh	W. T. Heckman	H. D. Gruber
1920	George W. Miller	E. E. Brubaker	George Sensenbaugh	W. T. Heckman	H. D. Gruber
1921	George W. Miller	E. E. Brubaker	H. D. Gruber	W. T. Heckman	J. C. Shull
1922	George W. Miller	E. E. Brubaker	H. D. Gruber	W. T. Heckman	J. C. Shull

Secretary and Treasurer

1923	George W. Miller	E. E. Brubaker	H. D. Gruber	W. T. Heckman	J. C. Shull
1924	George W. Miller	Herbert Mohler	E. E. Brubaker	W. T. Heckman	J. C. Shull
1925	George W. Miller	Herbert Mohler	E. E. Brubaker	W. T. Heckman	J. C. Shull
1926	George W. Miller	Herbert Mohler	E. E. Brubaker	W. T. Heckman	C. G. Bucher
1927	George W. Miller	Herbert Mohler	E. E. Brubaker	W. T. Heckman	C. G. Bucher
1928	George W. Miller	Herbert Mohler	E. E. Brubaker	W. T. Heckman	C. G. Bucher
1929	George W. Miller	Herbert Mohler	E. E. Brubaker	W. T. Heckman	C. G. Bucher
1930	George W. Miller	Herbert Mohler	E. E. Brubaker	W. T. Heckman	C. G. Bucher
1931	George W. Miller	Herbert Mohler	E. E. Brubaker	W. T. Heckman	C. G. Bucher
1932	George W. Miller	Herbert Mohler	E. E. Brubaker	W. T. Heckman	C. G. Bucher
1933	George W. Miller	Herbert Mohler	E. E. Brubaker	W. T. Heckman	C. G. Bucher
1934	George W. Miller	Herbert Mohler	E. E. Brubaker	W. T. Heckman	C. G. Bucher

E. WELFARE BOARD; BOARD OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION AFTER 1931

	<i>President</i>	<i>Secretary of Temperance</i>	<i>Secretary of Religious Education</i>	<i>Sunday-school Secretary</i>	<i>Child Rescue Work</i>
1925	I. D. Heckman	E. O. Norris	Bennett Stutsman	Preston Arnold	Emma Simmons
1926	I. D. Heckman	E. O. Norris	Bennett Stutsman	Preston Arnold	Emma Simmons
1927	I. D. Heckman	E. O. Norris	Russell Sherman	Preston Arnold	Emma Simmons
				<i>Secretary of Peace</i>	
1928	I. D. Heckman	E. O. Norris	Preston Arnold	George Fulk	Emma Simmons
1929	I. D. Heckman	E. O. Norris	Preston Arnold	George Fulk	Emma Simmons
					<i>Director of</i>
					<i>Children's Work</i>
1930	I. D. Heckman	E. O. Norris	Preston Arnold	George Fulk	Gladys Heckman
1931	I. D. Heckman	E. O. Norris	Preston Arnold	George Fulk	Gladys Heckman
1932	I. D. Heckman	E. O. Norris	Preston Arnold	George Fulk	Gladys Heckman
1933	I. D. Heckman	W. W. Peters	Preston Arnold	George Fulk	Gladys Heckman
1934	I. D. Heckman	W. W. Peters	Preston Arnold	George Fulk	Gladys Heckman
1935	I. D. Heckman	W. W. Peters	Preston Arnold	George Fulk	Gladys Heckman

F. BOARD OF ADMINISTRATION

1936. W. W. Peters, George W. Miller, I. D. Heckman, W. T. Heckman, Herbert Mohler, George Fulk, Dolar Ritchey, Russell Filbrun, Mrs. Mary Swinger, C. G. Bucher, S. J. Snell, Ralph Johnson
1937. W. W. Peters, W. T. Heckman, I. D. Heckman, H. V. Stutsman, George Miller, George Fulk, C. G. Bucher, D. M. Hendricks, Mrs. Mary Swinger, Dolar Ritchey, Ralph Johnson, S. J. Snell
1938. W. T. Heckman, I. D. Heckman, H. V. Stutsman, W. W. Peters, D. M. Hendricks, Mrs. Mary Swinger, Ralph Johnson, Dolar Ritchey, C. G. Bucher, A. B. Gibbel, George W. Miller, S. J. Snell, Helen Ruby
1939. W. T. Heckman, I. D. Heckman, H. V. Stutsman, George W. Miller, Dolar Ritchey, Ralph Johnson, A. B. Gibbel, Helen Ruby, Paul Rhoades
1940. W. T. Heckman, Dolar Ritchey, H. V. Stutsman, I. D. Heckman, George W. Miller, M. A. Whisler, Paul Rhoades, Oliver Dearing, S. J. Snell
1941. W. T. Heckman, Dolar Ritchey, H. V. Stutsman, I. D. Heckman, Paul Rhoades, S. J. Snell, M. A. Whisler, Oliver Dearing, J. W. Metzger
1942. W. T. Heckman, Dolar Ritchey, H. V. Stutsman, I. D. Heckman, M. A. Whisler, Paul Rhoades, Oliver Dearing, S. J. Snell, J. W. Metzger
1943. W. T. Heckman, Dolar Ritchey, H. V. Stutsman, I. D. Heckman, M. A. Whisler, Oliver Dearing, J. W. Metzger, Paul Rhoades, S. J. Snell
1944. W. T. Heckman, M. A. Whisler, J. W. Metzger, H. V. Stutsman, Oliver Dearing, Paul Rhoades, S. J. Snell, G. H. Ridgely, Merlin Garber
1945. M. A. Whisler, W. T. Heckman, J. W. Metzger, S. J. Snell, Paul Rhoades, G. H. Ridgely, Merlin Garber, Dewey Cave, Ausby Swinger
1946. M. A. Whisler, W. T. Heckman, J. W. Metzger, S. J. Snell, Paul Rhoades, G. H. Ridgely, Ausby Swinger, Dewey Cave, Merlin Garber
1947. M. A. Whisler, Dewey Cave, J. W. Metzger, S. J. Snell, Paul Rhoades, G. H. Ridgely, Merlin Garber, Ausby Swinger, W. Harlan Smith
1948. M. A. Whisler, Ausby Swinger, J. W. Metzger, S. J. Snell, Paul Rhoades, G. H. Ridgely, W. T. Heckman, A. P. Musselman, Preston Arnold
1949. A. P. Musselman, M. A. Whisler, S. J. Snell, J. W. Metzger, Preston Arnold, Paul Rhoades, G. H. Ridgely, Russell Pepple, Leland Emrick, Eldo Henricks

G. MINISTERIAL COMMITTEE

1942	Dolar Ritchey	Merlin Garber	John B. Wieand
1943	Dolar Ritchey	Merlin Garber	John B. Wieand
1944	Dewey Cave	Merlin Garber	John B. Wieand
1945	Dewey Cave	Merlin Garber	John B. Wieand
1946	Dewey Cave	Merlin Garber	Leland Nelson
1947	Merlin Garber	Dewey Cave	Wilbur Bantz
1948	A. P. Musselman	Wilbur Bantz	Ausby Swinger
1949	A. P. Musselman	Wilbur Bantz	Ausby Swinger

H. MINISTERIAL SECRETARY

1937-1941 Dolar Ritchey

I. HOME COMMITTEE

1938	H. V. Stutsman	A. B. Gibbel	S. J. Snell
1939	H. V. Stutsman	A. B. Gibbel	S. J. Snell
1940	H. V. Stutsman	I. J. Brubaker	S. J. Snell
1941	H. V. Stutsman	I. J. Brubaker	S. J. Snell
1942	H. V. Stutsman	I. J. Brubaker	S. J. Snell
1943	H. V. Stutsman	I. J. Brubaker	S. J. Snell
1944	H. V. Stutsman	I. J. Brubaker	S. J. Snell
1945	H. V. Stutsman	I. J. Brubaker	S. J. Snell
1946	Charles Gibbel	I. J. Brubaker	S. J. Snell
1947	Charles Gibbel	Russell Young	S. J. Snell
1948	Charles Gibbel	Russell Young	S. J. Snell
1949	Charles Gibbel	Russell Young	S. J. Snell

J. BRETHREN SERVICE COMMITTEE

1943	J. W. Metzger	W. Harlan Smith	O. F. Cripe
1944	J. W. Metzger	W. Harlan Smith	L. M. Baldwin
1945	J. W. Metzger	W. Harlan Smith	L. M. Baldwin
1946	W. Harlan Smith	J. W. Metzger	S. J. Snell
1947	Harvey Skiles	J. W. Metzger	Paul Rhoades
1948	Harvey Skiles	J. W. Metzger	Russell Pepple
1949	Harvey Skiles, Director of Brethren Service		

K. DIRECTOR OF TEMPERANCE

1937	George W. Miller
1938	Galen Lehman
1939, 1940	William J. Tinkle
1941	I. D. Heckman
1942, 1943	Daniel Merrifield
1944 - 1946	Merlin Garber
1947	Philip Snell
1948	Dewey Cave
1949	Mrs. M. A. Whisler

L. DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S WORK

1936	Gladys Heckman
1937	Mary Swinger
1938 - 1940	Lois Stutsman
1941—	Mrs. G. H. Ridgely

M. DIRECTOR OF INTERMEDIATE WORK

1942-1945	Mrs. John B. Wieand
1946	Mr. and Mrs. David Fouts
1947-1948	Mrs. Paul Brubaker
1949	Robert West

N. MEN'S WORK OFFICERS

Director

1933	H. V. Stutsman
1934	Paul Senger
1935	Paul Senger
1936	Walter S. Coffman
1937	Paul Senger
1938	J. W. Metzger
1939	J. W. Metzger
1940	J. W. Metzger

President

1941	J. W. Metzger
1942	J. W. Metzger
1943	J. W. Metzger
1944	J. W. Metzger
1945	J. W. Metzger
1946	J. W. Metzger
1947	Harvey Skiles
1948	Harvey Skiles
1949	Harvey Skiles

Vice-president

Paul Rhoades
Paul Rhoades
Paul Rhoades
Paul Rhoades
Paul Rhoades
Paul Rhoades
Paul Rhoades
Paul Rhoades
Paul Garver

Secretary-Treasurer

Robert Winkler
Ray Stoner
Ray Stoner
Ray Stoner
G. H. Ridgely
G. H. Ridgely
G. H. Ridgely
G. H. Ridgely
G. H. Ridgely

O. SISTERS' AID SOCIETY

President

1916	Mrs. Martha Lear
1917	Mrs. Martha Lear
1918	Mrs. Elizabeth H. Brubaker
1919	Mrs. Elizabeth H. Brubaker

Secretary-Treasurer

Emma Sensenbaugh
Edith Bubb
Edith Bubb
Ella Hoots

(District meeting minutes do not say who was president
or secretary during these years.)

1920	Mrs. P. A. Shearer	Mrs. E. J. Stauffer
1921	Mrs. P. A. Shearer	Mrs. E. J. Stauffer
1922	Mrs. Emma Simmons	Mrs. E. J. Stauffer
1923	Mrs. Emma Simmons	Mrs. E. J. Stauffer
1924	Mrs. Emma Simmons	Mrs. E. J. Stauffer
1925	Mrs. Emma Simmons	Mrs. E. J. Stauffer

President

1926	Mrs. Anna Caslow
1927	Mrs. Anna Caslow
1928	Mrs. Anna Caslow
1929	Mrs. Elsie Sellers

Secretary-Treasurer

Mrs. E. J. Stauffer	Mrs. Ada Snell
Mrs. E. J. Stauffer	Mrs. Ada Snell
Mrs. E. J. Stauffer	Mrs. Ada Snell
Mrs. E. J. Stauffer	Mrs. Ada Snell

P. WOMEN'S WORK OFFICERS

	<i>President</i>	<i>Vice-president</i>	<i>Secretary-Treasurer</i>	<i>Director of Aid</i>
1930	Mrs. Elsie Sellers	Mrs. Ada Snell	Mrs. Pearl Rohrer	Mrs. E. F. Caslow
1931	Mrs. Ada Snell	Mrs. Russell Filbrun	Mrs. Pearl Rohrer	Mrs. E. F. Caslow
1932	Mrs. Ada Snell	Mrs. J. J. Johnson	Mrs. Pearl Rohrer	Mrs. N. H. Miller
1933	Mrs. Ada Snell	Mrs. J. J. Johnson	Mrs. Pearl Rohrer	Mrs. N. H. Miller
1934	Mrs. Ada Buckingham	Mrs. I. J. Gibson	Mrs. Pearl Rohrer	Mrs. N. H. Miller
1935	Mrs. Ada Buckingham	Mrs. I. J. Gibson	Mrs. H. V. Stutsman	Mrs. Dolar Ritchey
1936	Mrs. Ada Buckingham	Mrs. I. J. Gibson	Mrs. H. V. Stutsman	Mrs. Dolar Ritchey
1937	Mrs. Ada Buckingham	Mrs. I. J. Gibson	Mrs. H. V. Stutsman	Mrs. Dolar Ritchey
1938	Mrs. Ada Buckingham	Mrs. I. J. Gibson	Mrs. H. V. Stutsman	Mrs. Dolar Ritchey
1939	Mrs. Ada Buckingham	Mrs. I. J. Gibson	Mrs. H. V. Stutsman	Mrs. Dolar Ritchey
1940	Mrs. S. J. Snell	Mrs. I. J. Gibson	Mrs. H. V. Stutsman	Mrs. Dolar Ritchey
1941	Mrs. S. J. Snell	Mrs. M. A. Whisler	Mrs. H. V. Stutsman	Mrs. Dolar Ritchey
1942	Mrs. S. J. Snell	Mrs. M. A. Whisler	Mrs. H. V. Stutsman	Mrs. Dolar Ritchey
1943	Mrs. S. J. Snell	Mrs. M. A. Whisler	Mrs. H. V. Stutsman	Mrs. Ausby Swinger
1944	Mrs. S. J. Snell	Mrs. M. A. Whisler	Mrs. H. V. Stutsman	Mrs. Ausby Swinger
1945	Mrs. S. J. Snell	Mrs. M. A. Whisler	Mrs. H. V. Stutsman	Mrs. Ausby Swinger
1946	Mrs. Leland Emrick	Mrs. Lorrel Eikenberry	Mrs. H. V. Stutsman	Mrs. Ausby Swinger
1947	Mrs. Leland Emrick	Mrs. Lorrel Eikenberry	Mrs. H. V. Stutsman	Mrs. Ausby Swinger
1948	Mrs. Leland Emrick	Mrs. Lorrel Eikenberry	Mrs. H. V. Stutsman	Mrs. Ausby Swinger
1949	Mrs. Leland Emrick	Mrs. Lorrel Eikenberry	Mrs. H. V. Stutsman	Mrs. Ausby Swinger

	<i>Director of Missions</i>	<i>Director of Home Builders</i>	<i>Director of Bible Study</i>	<i>Director of Temperance</i>	<i>Director of Peace</i>
1930	Mrs. M. A. Whisler	Mrs. Annie Blickenstaff	Mrs. A. R. Coffman		
1931	Mrs. M. A. Whisler	Mrs. Annie Blickenstaff	Mrs. W. W. Peters		Ida Buckingham
1932	Ida Buckingham	Mrs. Galen Heckman	Mrs. W. W. Peters		Ida Buckingham
1933	Ida Buckingham	Mrs. Galen Heckman	Mrs. W. W. Peters		Ida Buckingham
1934	Ida Buckingham	Mrs. Galen Heckman	Mrs. M. A. Whisler		Ida Buckingham
1935	Ida Buckingham	Mrs. Galen Heckman	Mrs. M. A. Whisler		Ida Buckingham
1936	Ida Buckingham	Mrs. Galen Heckman	Mrs. M. A. Whisler		Ida Buckingham
1937	Ida Buckingham	Mrs. Galen Heckman	Mrs. M. A. Whisler		Ida Buckingham
1938	Ida Buckingham	Mrs. Galen Heckman	Mrs. M. A. Whisler		Ida Buckingham
1939	Ida Buckingham	Mrs. Galen Lehman	Mrs. M. A. Whisler		
1940	Ida Buckingham	Mrs. Galen Lehman	Mrs. Oliver Dearing		
1941	Mrs. I. J. Gibson	Mrs. Galen Lehman	Mrs. Oliver Dearing		
1942	Mrs. I. J. Gibson	Mrs. L. M. Baldwin	Mrs. Oliver Dearing		
1943	Mrs. I. J. Gibson	Mrs. L. M. Baldwin	Mrs. Dewey Cave	Mrs. R. C. Wenger	
1944	Mrs. W. Harlan Smith	Mrs. L. M. Baldwin	Mrs. Dewey Cave	Mrs. R. C. Wenger	
1945	Mrs. W. Harlan Smith	Mrs. H. P. Clannin	Mrs. Dewey Cave	Mrs. Glenn Carr	
1946	Mrs. W. Harlan Smith	Mrs. H. P. Clannin	Mrs. Dewey Cave	Mrs. Lester Beery	
1947	Eunice Heckman	Mrs. H. P. Clannin	Mrs. Dewey Cave	Mrs. Lester Beery	
1948	Eunice Heckman	Mrs. H. P. Clannin	Mrs. Dewey Cave	Mrs. Lester Beery	
1949	Eunice Heckman	Mrs. H. P. Clannin	Mrs. Dewey Cave	Mrs. Lester Beery	

Q. BYPD (CByF) OFFICERS

	<i>President</i>	<i>Vice-president</i>	<i>Secretary</i>
1930	Bertha Miller	Francis Johnson	Ada Harshbarger
1931	Ralph Clannin	Mary Senger	Vera Douglas
1932	Mary Senger	Lois Christner	Vera Douglas
1933	Mary Rohrer	John Arnold	Lois Christner
1934	Mary Rohrer	Miriam Brubaker	Virginia Ashenfelter
1935	Willard Christner	Maurice Snell	Ralph Johnson
1936	Maurice Snell		Ralph Johnson
1937	Maurice Snell	Ralph Johnson	Helen Ruby
1938	Virginia Ashenfelter	John Senger	Helen Ruby
1939	Virginia Ashenfelter	John Senger	Helen Ruby
1940	Virginia Ashenfelter	Kenneth Fisher	Helen Ruby
1941	John Senger	Kenneth Fisher	Kathleen Lehman
1942	Kathleen Lehman	Robert Lam	Idabelle Hood
1943	Flossie Johnson	Durward Hays	Idabelle Hood
1944	Flossie Johnson	Durward Hays	Irene Masticks
1945	June Landes	Merle Stutsman	Philip Snell
1946	Irma Ruth Beery	Loretta Racop	Mary Ann Rhoades
1947	Dorothy Smith	Loretta Racop	Gene England
1948	Dorothy Smith	Mary Ann Rhoades	Rosemary Traxler
1949	Rose Mary Traxler	Gordon Westerfield	Lois McBride
1950	Dorthea Traugher	Dale McBride	Gene Fahs

Treasurer

1930	Ada Harshbarger		
1931	Vera Douglas	Velma Harshbarger	
1932	Ralph Clannin	John Arnold	
1933	Miriam Brubaker	Mary Senger	
1934	Willard Christner		
1935	Virginia Ashenfelter		
1936	Virginia Ashenfelter		
1937	Virginia Ashenfelter		
1938	Maurice Snell		
1939	Maurice Snell		
1940	John Senger		
1941	Flossie Johnson		
1942	Flossie Johnson	Charles Dumond, Jr.	William Ritchey
1943	Philip Snell	Irene Masticks	Merle Stutsman
1944	Philip Snell	Merle Stutsman	Robert Richards
1945	Durward Hays	Irma Ruth Beery	
			<i>Editor</i>
1946	Philip Snell	Dwight Smith	Evelyn Jones
1947	Philip Snell	Mary Ann Rhoades	Evelyn Jones
1948	Vernon Royer	Wendell Bryant	Meda Jellison
1949	Vernon Royer	Rose Mary Clause	Meda Jellison
1950	Bernard Racop		David Greer

R. MUSIC DIRECTOR

1928	Maggie N. Weber
1929 - 1930	Dorothy Stutsman
1931 - 1932	J. Emmert Stover
1933	Bertha Shull
1934 - 1935	Willard Christner
1936	William Myers
1937 - 1939	Mrs. Arthur Byerly
1940 - 1941	Mrs. John Wieand
1942 - 1945	Oliver Dearing
1946—	Chris Johansen

S. HISTORICAL COMMITTEE

1940—	D. J. Blickenstaff
1940 - 1943	I. D. Heckman
1942—	Dow A. Ridgely
1943	John B. Wieand
1944—	Ida Buckingham

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